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Carcani Receives Cuban Foreign Trade Minister

AU202015 Tirana Domestic Service in Albanian 1900 GMT 20 Feb 88

[Text] Comrade Adil Carcani, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania, today received Ricardo Cabrisas Ruiz, minister of foreign trade of Cuba and leader of the Cuban Government Trade Delegation, and had a friendly talk with him. The reception was attended by Minister of Foreign Trade Shane Korbeci and Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Sokrat Plaka.

Trade Protocol Signed

AU202023 Tirana Domestic Service in Albanian 1900 GMT 20 Feb 88

[Text] The trade and payments protocol for 1988 was signed today in Tirana between the Government of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania and the Government of the Republic of Cuba. The protocol was signed on the Albanian side by Minister of Foreign Trade Shane Korbeci and on the Cuban side by Minister of Foreign Trade Ricardo Cabrisas Ruiz.

The signing ceremony was also attended by Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Sokrat Plaka. Carlos Alonso Morena, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Republic of Cuba to Albania, was also present.

Albania will export to Cuba copper wires and cables, preserves, artistic goods, and so forth, and will import sugar, pharmaceutical raw materials, school and athletic equipment, and so forth.

Bilateral Cultural Talks Begin With SFRY

AU191317 Tirana ATA in English 0735 GMT 19 Feb 88

[Text] Tirana, February 19 (ATA)—On February 17, 1988, a delegation of the Federative Executive Council of the Assembly of the SFRY, headed by Marijan Strbasic, director of the Federative Enterprise for International Scientific, Educational, Cultural, and Technical Cooperation, arrived in our country. The Yugoslav delegation was welcomed by Jorgo Melica, chairman of the Albanian Committee for Cultural and Friendly Relations With Foreign Countries.

Talks began between the delegations of the two countries on an agreement on scientific, educational, and cultural cooperation.

Agreement Signed

AU191945 Tirana Domestic Service in Albanian 1900 GMT 19 Feb 88

[Text] An agreement for cultural, scientific, and educational cooperation was signed today in Tirana between the government of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania and the SFRY Federative Executive Council. The agreement was signed on the Albanian side by Jorgo Melica, chairman of the Albanian Committee for Friendly and Cultural Relations With Foreign Countries; and on the Yugoslav side by Marijan Strbasic, director of the SFRY Institute for International Cultural-Educational and Scientific-Technical Cooperation.

The agreement stipulates exchanges in the fields of culture, education, science, sports, the exchange of lecturers and publications, and cooperation between the educational and scientific institutions of the two countries. The two delegations also discussed and exchanged ideas on the program of concrete activities to be organized during 1988-9 within the framework of this agreement. Both sides agreed to sign this program by April 1988.

The signing ceremony was attended by Alfred Uci, chairman of the Albanian Committee for the Arts and Culture; Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Muhamet Kapllani; and members of both delegations. Novak Pribisevic, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the SFRY in Albania, was also present.

Alfred Uci, chairman of the Albanian Committee for Culture and the Arts, today received the Yugoslav cultural delegation, and briefed its members with the achievements and development of culture, education, and science in our country.

The Yugoslav cultural delegation left Albania today. It was seen off at the airport by Jorgo Melica, chairman of the Committee for Cultural and Friendly Relations With Foreign Countries.

Lazri Interviewed on Balkan Conference

AU212115 Tirana Domestic Service in Albanian 1900 GMT 21 Feb 88

[Interview with Prof. Sofokli Lazri, director of the Institute for the Study of Present-Day International Relations, on the upcoming conference of Balkan foreign ministers—date and place not given]

[Text] As has been announced, a meeting of the foreign ministers of the Balkan countries will take place in Belgrade on 24 February. We have invited Prof. Sofokli Lazri, director of the Institute for the Study of Present-Day International Relations, to talk to us about this conference.

[Interviewer] Professor, the meeting of the foreign ministers of the Balkan countries has attracted the attention of the international public. There is also particular interest on the part of our public. There are numerous questions and the conference itself will undoubtedly provide the answers. But we would like to hear your opinions on this conference. How do you assess it? What is to be expected from the conference? What influence can it have on future developments in the Balkans and beyond?

[Lazri] It is beyond any doubt that the meeting of the foreign ministers of the Balkan countries is an event of particular political importance. It is the first conference of its kind. This is the first time that the foreign ministers of the Balkan countries will meet together to discuss common problems pertaining to the Balkans, to confront their ideas and opinions, and to examine the possibilities that may exist for cooperation in the interest of all concerned. Proceeding from the historical past of our peninsula, from all those historical emotions experienced in the past, from the ideological and political peculiarities, and their effect on the development of events in the Balkans, the conference gives rise to the idea that there exists a need for a realistic and objective reflection on the problems that preoccupy the Balkans, for a reflection divested of the old prejudices and quarrels, and also for reflection on those divisions introduced in the Balkans as a result of the interference of foreign powers, which have caused this peninsula so much harm.

As far as our own country's policy toward the neighboring countries is concerned—which is a policy determined by Comrade Enver Hoxha, and which has been consistently followed by our party and state—ours is a policy of good neighborliness, a policy that has insisted that the relations between Balkan countries be based on the well-known principles of noninterference in domestic affairs, respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all countries, and mutually beneficial cooperation. It is a policy intended to transform the Balkans from a powderkeg, as it used to be in the past, into a region of friendship, cooperation, and general security. We have always stated and declared publicly that no evil will ever come to our neighbors from Albania. We wish that this stand may become a general stand and a reality for all the Balkan countries. We have not only declared this stand, but have acted upon it consistently throughout our international relations. Our Constitution itself forbids the establishment of foreign bases and armies in Albania or the granting of facilities of whatever type to foreign military forces on our territory. This is a considerable guarantee to all concerned.

This is not a new policy. It existed ever since the new Albania was created. In one of the pages of his Political Diary, and, to be more precise, in the page dated 30 December 1984, Comrade Enver Hoxha wrote the following, and I quote: "The policy of good-neighborliness that we pursue toward the countries surrounding us has been followed from the time of the founding of our People's Republic. We have always been in favor of understanding and rapprochement with our neighbors. It is others who have failed to show understanding or who have responded hesitantly to our policy of good-neighborliness. In the concrete case, in the case of Greece, we have always been in favor of establishing good-neighborly relations with that country, and have shown considerable patience, because this is in the interest of both our peoples." It is in this constructive spirit and with this policy that the delegation of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania will go to the conference of the Balkan foreign ministers. But our delegation will not go there only with the wish, but also with the conviction—as Comrade Ramiz Alia stated at the Ninth AWP Congress, and I quote—"If the political will and a sincere desire for cooperation exist, if common obligations and common interests are properly assessed by all the neighboring countries, ways will also be found leading to overcoming the present difficulties and tensions existing in the Balkans, leading to the creation of that badly-needed spirit of mutual confidence, to the strengthening of understanding, and to the establishment of genuine good-neighborliness in the Balkans.

Good-neighborliness has never been and is not, as far as we are concerned, a mere geographical notion, in the sense that we live, all of us, in the same region. Good-neighborliness, as far as we are concerned, is a relationship arising from similar historical fortunes, common interests, numerous mutual interests. Viewed in this way, we must, all of us, struggle to ensure that this neighborliness remains good at all times, that all peoples may live in peace and friendship with each other. It is obvious that a negative situation in one country, instability or turbulence in any country, will also harm other countries. We wish such a situation or state of affairs on no one. What we wish is that a situation and atmosphere may prevail in the Balkans, which would serve the consolidation of the freedom, independence, and sovereignty of every country, which would contribute to general security not only in the Balkans, but also in Europe and throughout the world.

[Interviewer] You mentioned the difficulties existing in inter-Balkan relations and obstacles that may arise therefrom. What can we expect from this meeting, from a political aspect?

[Lazri] The political problems are certainly the most important, they predeterminate the state of relations between the Balkan countries. One such problem derives from the membership of this or that country in military blocs, in NATO or the Warsaw Pact. The superpowers have brought their confrontation and rivalry in the Balkans too, which has had the most varied consequences. These negative factors, the military and political presence of the superpowers in the Balkans, cannot be ignored. The freedom and independence of the Balkan countries remain always threatened, unless these negative factors are removed. Another problem hindering the strengthening of understanding and confidence in the Balkans is the problem of the stand toward ethnical minorities, which exist in all the Balkan countries. The problem of minorities is a considerably delicate and sensitive issue, which directly influences relations between countries. It is our opinion, and we have shown this in practice, that minorities must not be considered as apples of discord, but as bridges, as factors that could serve the rapprochement and friendship between the Balkan peoples. Other disagreements exist in the Balkans, certainly not as acute as those that I have mentioned, but which cause no lesser difficulties.

The upcoming Balkan meetings can certainly not discuss, let alone resolve, these bilateral problems. But what cannot be done by the conference of foreign ministers—and this is not its task—can be done by the concerned countries themselves. We believe that the resolving of bilateral problems—no matter how difficult they may be—is not impossible. There are sufficient cases and examples of such problems having been resolved—given patience, goodwill, and persistence. This induces us to believe that the resolving of bilateral problems—which is possible—would contribute also to the resolving of multilateral problems.

[Interviewer] Numerous comments have been made in the media of Balkan countries concerning the agenda of the conference. There has been talk about various proposals concerning Balkan cooperation, and so forth. What is your opinion on this?

[Lazri] Official statements made in various countries, including statements by the foreign ministers themselves, show that a number of proposals will be made at the conference. Many of these proposals are rational, while some other proposals are rather pretentious and go beyond the possibility of their concretization. Nevertheless, it is possible to reach a consensus on such questions pertaining to transportation, trade, the exploitation of waters, agriculture, health, ecology, and so forth. For example, if we proceed from the fact that roads in the Balkans go through various countries, it would be in the general interest to reach an agreement. The same applies to rivers, to some common lakes, to some narrow territorial waters. The rational exploitation of these waters would be in the common interest. I have mentioned only these examples, but there are numerous other questions on which agreement could be reached and cooperation achieved.

I would like to stress, in conclusion, that the meeting of the Balkan foreign ministers, would not bring much benefit, were the discussion of problems to remain on a general plane, and were it to fail to reach concrete results on those questions whose solutions are, by now, ripe. It would certainly be a great wish to expect solutions to the great political problems of the Balkans at this conference. But if this meeting could create a situation and an atmosphere favoring Balkan cooperation in those fields where this is possible—this would be welcomed by everyone. This would make it possible to move from the general to the particular, from all-Balkan problems to bilateral problems, from the lighter problems to the more difficult ones.

If this meeting of the Balkan foreign ministers results in creating such a spirit, it would then justify all the attention and all the interest shown by public opinion in this conference.

Economic Progress Report For 14-20 February

AU202027 [Editorial Report] Tirana Domestic Service in Albanian in its broadcasts between 14-20 February carries the following economic performance reports (time and date of broadcast in parentheses):

Elbasan District—The general industrial production plan has been exceeded by 3 percent as of February 10 (1900 GMT 16 February);

Fier District—Fifty-six collectives have fulfilled or overfulfilled their plan as of 10 February (1900 GMT 17 February);

Korce District—Ten export-oriented enterprises have jointly overfulfilled the export plan as of 10 February by 590,000 leks (1900 GMT 17 February);

Kukes District—The overall industrial production plan as of 15 February has been exceeded by 3 percent (1900 GMT 18 February);

Lezhe District—The general industrial production plan as of 15 February has been exceeded by 2.6 percent, while the foodstuffs industry exceeded its target by 37 percent (1900 GMT 19 February);

Puke District—the general industrial production plan as of 15 February has been overfulfilled by 600,000 leks (1900 GMT 19 February);

Sarande District—The overall industrial production plan for the period as of 15 February has been exceeded by 600,000 leks (1900 GMT 20 February;

Shkoder District—The district's engineering sector has overfulfilled its plan as of 15 February by 20 percent (1430 GMT 19 February);

Skrapar District—The overall industrial production plan as of 10 February has been overfulfilled by 200,000 leks (1900 GMT 14 February).

Leaders Public Appearances 14-20 February

AU211531 [Editorial Report] Tirana Domestic Service in Albanian and Tirana ATA in English in their broadcasts from 14-20 February report the following public appearances of Albanian leaders (time and date of broadcast in parentheses):

Ramiz Alia, chairman of the Presidium of the People's Assembly, received on 20 February the GDR ambassador, who presented his credentials. (Tirana Domestic Albanian 1900 GMT 20 February)

Adil Carcani, chairman of the Council of Ministers, received on 20 February the Cuban minister of foreign trade. (Tirana Domestic Albanian 1900 GMT 20 February)

Adil Carcani, chairman of the Council of Ministers, received on 17 February Didier Bariani, secretary of state at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of France. (Tirana Domestic Albanian 1900 GMT 17 February)

Foto Cami, AWP Central Committee Politburo member and secretary, and Rita Marko, AWP Central Committee Politburo member and deputy chairman of the Presidium of the People's Assembly, attended on 17 February the plenum of the General Council of the Albanian Trade Unions. (Tirana ATA English 0930 GMT 18 February)

Hajredin Celiku, AWP Central Committee Politburo member attended on 14 February a ceremony at the "Victory of Leninism" agricultural cooperative in Sarande District to award the decoration of "Hero of Socialist Labor" to its chairman. (Tirana Domestic Albanian 1900 GMT 14 February)

Pirro Kondi, AWP Central Committee Politburo candidate member and Tirana District AWP Committee first secretary, attended on 18 February a meeting of party activists of the engineering plants in the No.3 precinct of Tirana, which examined the successes attained in the production of mass consumer commodities. (Tirana Domestic Albanian 1900 GMT 18 February)

BTA Previews Belgrade Balkan Conference

AU201859 Sofia BTA in English
1553 GMT 20 Feb 88

["The Press on Balkan Meeting"—BTA headline]

[Text] Sofia, February 20 (BTA)—Under headlines like "The Balkans—A Zone of Peace and Understanding," "For Promoting Trust and Good-Neighbourliness," and "For a More Secure Home", the dailies carry articles, commentaries and analyses on the forthcoming meeting of the foreign ministers of the Balkan countries in Belgrade.

Bulgaria attaches primary importance to her policy in the Balkans, Ambassador Bocho Bochev, deputy head of the "Balkan Countries" Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, writes in RABOTNICHESKO DELO. The diplomat stresses that, showing flexibility and a constructive approach, the Bulgarian Government is striving to contribute to the further warming of the overall climate. Bulgaria is undertaking actual and important initiatives of a bilateral and multilateral nature. This stabilizing role of hers is enjoying wide recognition and raising the international prestige of the country, Ambassador Bocho Bochev writes.

He makes a brief analysis of Bulgaria's relations with the other countries of the region.

Bulgaro-Romanian relations are undergoing a dynamic development. Active contacts between the two socialist countries at various bilateral levels and within the framework of CMEA have revealed possibilities for exchanging experience and for efficient cooperation.

The upgrade development of Bulgaro-Yugoslav relations has established itself as a lasting tendency. The belief that there are conditions for raising this cooperation to a qualitatively new level is widely accepted.

Changes are also taking place in Bulgaro-Greek relations. The two countries are showing political courage and wisdom in eliminating the barriers and in responding to the requirements of the new situation.

Bulgaro-Albanian relations have also made progress. The mutual agreement for their diplomatic relations to be raised to the level of exchanging ambassadors extraordinary and plenipotentiary is received with satisfaction here.

The stagnation in Bulgaro-Turkish relations can be overcome by showing political will and a sober-minded attitude to the modern realities and by a constructive approach to the problems. Partnership requires readiness to maintain a dialogue on an equal footing, to respect the other side's opinions and to patiently seek common interests.

Nikolay Todorov, director of the Balkan Studies Institute, speaks in detail of the various contacts maintained between the academies of sciences of the Balkan countries and between their scientists.

The political situation in the Balkans is an integral part of the situation in the world, above all of the European processes, Ms. Zhorzheta Grigorova, doctor of history, writes in an article headlined "For a More Secure Home" and published in ZEMEDELSKO ZNAME. The concept that the security of each Balkan state depends on the security of its neighbours is being ever more widely recognized. The Declaration for Friendship, Good-Neighbourliness and Cooperation signed between Bulgaria and Greece in 1986 is indicative of this.

Balkan economic cooperation gathered momentum in the 70's encouraged by the rapid economic progress of the countries and by the thawing of the political relations among them, Ekaterina Nikolova writes in ZEMEDELSKO ZNAME. Trade among the Balkan countries has increased considerably and the forms of their economic cooperation have been diversified. The tourist organizations of the Balkan countries were the first to establish cooperation. The transit flow of goods from Europe to the Middle East and back raised the importance of cooperation in the field of transport. Joint production established itself as a modern and organic link between the individual economies. Cooperation in the field of communications, the water economy, power engineering, farming, etc. has also been successful. But on the whole the unanimous opinion is that Balkan economic cooperation has by far not reached the real possibilities and requirements of the countries, the article reads.

Bulgaria is of the opinion that cooperation in the field of environment protection is an objective necessity and that it is an integral part of the material basis of detente. At the Vienna CSCE Conference this country put forward a proposal for holding a European ecological forum in Bulgaria.

The proposal made by Mr Todor Zhivkov for the elaboration and signing of a treaty on the ecological protection of the Balkan Peninsula goes beyond the framework of bilateral cooperation. The meetings of experts of the Balkan countries are the first stage of the development of multilateral scientific cooperation in this field, a signed article in ZEMEDELSKO ZNAME points out.

Romanian Governmental Commission Meets

AU201653 Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian
1600 GMT 20 Feb 88

[Text] The second session of the Special Bulgarian-Romanian Governmental Commission was held in Ruse today. The Bulgarian side was led by Council of Ministers Chairman Georgi Atanasov, and the Romanian side by Prime Minister Constantin Dascalescu.

A draft plan was agreed on at the session for a program to deepen specialization and work sharing in production between Bulgaria and Romania until 1995-2000, with a view to elevating their economic cooperation to a new stage, in accordance with the accords reached between Comrades Todor Zhivkov and Nicolae Ceausescu.

In the course of the talks, special attention was paid to the ecological situation in the Ruse-Giurgiu region. It was confirmed that all necessary measures would be taken to stop the pollution of the atmosphere in the city of Ruse by the chemical combine in Giurgiu. An agreement was reached on setting up joint teams to measure the air pollution in Ruse and Giurgiu and determine the sources of this pollution.

Comrade Georgi Atanasov gave a briefing on the wide-scale measures that the Bulgarian Government is undertaking to decisively improve the purity of the air in Ruse. The Bulgarian side proposes that an intergovernmental convention be signed to protecting the natural environment in the regions along the Danube.

Atanasov Receives Dascalescu

AU211600 Bucharest AGERPRES in English 1510 GMT 21 Feb 88

["Working Meeting Between Romanian Premier Constantin Dascalescu and Bulgarian Premier Georgi Atanasov"—AGERPRES headline]

[Text] Sofia (AGERPRES) 20/2/1988—To implement the understandings covenanted between Nicolae Ceausescu and Todor Zhivkov during the summit talks in Sofia in October 1987, a working meeting was held in Ruse on February 20 between Romanian Prime Minister Constantin Dascalescu and Georgi Atanasov, chairman of the Council of Ministers of Bulgaria, co-chairman of the Special Governmental Commission set up for the elaboration of the programme of deepening production specialization and cooperation in production which is to be the main way for economic collaboration between Romania and Bulgaria.

During the talks reference was made to the progress made in the period that has passed since the last November meeting between the two heads of government. Stress was laid on the importance of the concrete actions agreed upon for the expansion of cooperation in production and production specialization in machine building, electronics and electrical engineering, chemistry and petrochemistry, construction materials, wood-working, agriculture and the food industry just as in other domains of mutual interest. The economic ministries and organizations in the two countries were assigned the task to take appropriate measures for the attainment of the targets set.

In consideration of the achievements and steadily growing potential of the two countries' economies, the prime ministers examined possibilities for the further expansion and diversification of collaboration, the realization of new ventures of production specialization and cooperation and cooperation in the of tracks [as received], railway rolling stock as well as for the broadening and deepening of relations of cooperation in production among the machine-building units in Giurgiu and Ruse, and instructed the relevant bodies to carry them into effect as soon as possible under appropriate understandings.

Measures were set in connection with the steps which should be taken for the best use of the Danube's power potential, the building, through the two countries' concerted efforts, of the waterpower stations Turnu Magurele-Nikopol and Calarasi-Silistra.

The two prime ministers established specific measures for the soonest possible implementation of the programme of deepening production specialization and cooperation in production between Romania and Bulgaria.

Actions were also agreed upon for the further increase of goods exchanges between Romania and Bulgaria.

The talks passed in a warm, friendly atmosphere of mutual understanding, in the spirit of the good ties between the two parties, countries and peoples.

The talks were attended by Deputy Prime Minister Ion Constantinescu, and Grigor Stoichkov, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers, by other Romanian and Bulgarian officials.

Romania's ambassador to Sofia and Bulgaria's ambassador to Bucharest also attended.

After the conclusion of talks, the two prime ministers paid a visit to the heavy equipment combine in Ruse, a unit which, together with the heavy equipment and machinery enterprise of Giurgiu, makes up an industrial complex created upon the initiative of Nicolae Ceausescu and Todor Zhivkov.

The talks conducted with managerial staff and experts in some important sectors of the combine evinces the stage and concrete results of the collaboration and cooperation between the two units.

The two heads of government appreciated the achievements of the Ruse combine's collectivity, and underscored the necessity of further developing collaboration and cooperation between the two units of the enterprise in Giurgiu and Ruse with a view to attaining the targets set at top level.

The Romanian prime minister left Bulgaria the same day.

Protocol Signed To Buy Reactor From CSSR

*AU191909 Sofia BTA in English
1832 GMT 19 Feb 88*

["Bulgaria To Import N-Reactor From Czechoslovakia"—BTA headline]

[Text] Sofia, February 19 (BTA)—Bulgaria will for the first time import a nuclear reactor from a CMEA member country other than the Soviet Union. The Czechoslovak Foreign Trade Organization "Skodaexport" will deliver through the Bulgarian "Tekhnoimportexport" Foreign Trade Corporation the first 1,000- megawatt reactor for Bulgaria's second nuclear power station, which is under construction in Belene (northern Bulgaria).

The contract was signed here today. Czechoslovakia will also deliver different products for the construction of the nuclear power station, for which a protocol has been signed between the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations of Bulgaria and the Federal Ministry of Foreign Trade of Czechoslovakia.

The working visit here of Mr Ladislav Gerle, deputy prime minister of Czechoslovakia, who is chairman of the Czechoslovak side of the Bulgaro-Czechoslovak Committee for Economic and Techno-Scientific Cooperation, was completed with the signing of these documents. He assessed the contract as marking a peak in the relations between the two countries and struck a positive balance of the bilateral economic contacts—last year countertrade was the highest reached so far. It amounted to 10 milliard korunas.

Mr Georgi Atanasov, member of the Politburo of the CC of the BCP and chairman of the Council of Ministers, received the Czechoslovak guest today. Along with issues of the realization of large industrial projects, the two sides discussed the new possibilities for cooperation ensuing from the restructuring in the economies of the two countries.

Mr Andrey Lukanov, candidate member of the Politburo of the CC of the BCP and minister of foreign economic relations, who also met Mr Ladislav Gerle, described the contracted deliveries as a new stage in the cooperation between Bulgaria and Czechoslovakia. According to him this has become possible thanks to the conditions of close integration within CMEA.

The guest from Czechoslovakia and Mr Stoyan Ovcharov, minister of economy and planning and chairman of the Bulgarian side of the Bulgaro-Czechoslovak Committee for Economic and Techno-Scientific Cooperation, conferred on some new aspects of the work of the committee.

Gerle Interviewed on Visit

*LD201057 Prague CTK in English
2000 GMT 19 Feb 88*

[Text] Sofia Feb 19 (CTK correspondent)—The first contract for the supplying of a new type of a 1,000 megawatt reactor worth 80 million roubles by the Czechoslovak Skoda Plzen enterprise to the Bulgarian Belene nuclear power plant was signed in the presence of Czechoslovak Deputy Premier Ladislav Gerle here today.

The reactor will be supplied in the 1988-1991 period.

Deputy Premier Ladislav Gerle, chairman of the Czechoslovak section of the Czechoslovak-Bulgarian Committee for Scientific-Technological Cooperation, who is on a working visit to Bulgaria, was received here today by chairman of the Council of Ministers Georgi Atanasov. The two representatives discussed questions of all-round cooperation between Czechoslovakia and Bulgaria.

The same day the Czechoslovak deputy premier held talks on the concrete aspects of economic and scientific-technological cooperation between the two countries with Bulgarian Minister of External Economic Relations Andrey Lukanov and minister of Economy and Planning Stoyan Ovcharov who is also chairman of the joint committee's Bulgarian section.

Ladislav Gerle has characterized his visit to Bulgaria as very successful and fruitful.

In an interview with Czechoslovak journalists at the close of the visit he stressed that during his talks with Bulgarian officials, the two sides expressed satisfaction with the dynamic development of economic contacts between the two countries whose goods exchange reached a record 10,000 million cerowns last year.

Ladislav Gerle pointed out the necessity of the further improvement of bilateral cooperation, particularly the need for observance of contractual obligations which creates a reliable basis of mutually advantageous cooperation.

Also discussed during the talks was improvement of services for Czechoslovak citizens visiting Bulgaria's Black Sea coast, Ladislav Gerle said.

Tanchev Continues Visit to Italy 19 Feb

Meets With Andreotti

*AU201619 Sofia BTA in English
2059 GMT 19 Feb 88*

[Text] Rome, February 19 (BTA correspondent)—Mr Petur Tanchev, secretary of the Bulgarian Agrarian Party (BZNS) and first vice president of Bulgaria's State Council, who leads a BZNS delegation on a visit here at the invitation of the leadership of the Italian Christian

Democratic Party, conferred today with Mr Giulio Andreotti, minister of foreign affairs of Italy and member of the leadership of the Christian Democratic Party.

The further promotion of Bulgaro-Italian cooperation was at the centre of their discussion. Mr Petur Tanchev emphasised that Mr Giulio Andreotti's visit to Bulgaria last year and the session of talks between Mr Todor Zhivkov, president of the State Council, and the Italian foreign minister opened a new chapter in the development of bilateral relations.

Mr Giulio Andreotti spoke in favour of wider Bulgaro-Italian contacts in both countries' interests, of an enhanced dialogue and understanding in Europe and worldwide. He emphasised that the contacts between the BZNS and the Christian Democratic Party help promote bilateral relations.

Mr Giulio Andreotti was familiarized with the restructuring underway in all spheres of Bulgaria's socio-economic life. He commended highly Bulgaria's contribution to understanding in the Balkans, in Europe and the world at large. The sides pointed out that the current new and watershed world situation opens up wider opportunities for a policy of peaceful coexistence and for reducing the nuclear threat. They welcomed the Soviet-American INF Treaty as an important step inspiring hopes for a safer, nuclear-free and peaceful world. The leader of the BZNS delegation met today with Mr Ciriaco de Mita, secretary general of the Christian Democratic Party.

Mr Ciriaco de Mita welcomed the enhancement of contacts between the two parties and indicated that their dialogue contributes to the creation and assertion of a new climate in Italian-Bulgarian ties.

The sides emphasised that the two parties favour more active bilateral contacts at the government, parliament and public organisation levels and a diversified business interaction.

The BZNS delegation conferred with the leadership of the National Confederation of Smallholders (Coldiretti) and its president, Mr Arcangelo Lobianco. Specific steps were outlined for the promotion of cooperation between the BZNS and Coldiretti, for an intensified exchange in the sphere of up-to-date farming methods and experience.

Delegation Returns

AU211942 Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian
1830 GMT 21 Feb 88

[Text] The delegation of the Bulgarian Agrarian National Union [BZNS], led by Petur Tanchev, BZNS secretary and first deputy chairman of the State Council, which made a friendly visit to Italy at the invitation of the leadership Christian Democratic Party, returned to Bulgaria on 22 February. At Sofia Airport the delegation was greeted by secretaries and members of the BZNS Permanent Board.

Relations With Greece Praised as 'Model'

AU211755 Sofia BTA in English
1700 GMT 21 Feb 88

["Bulgaria, Greece: Relations—A Model To Be Followed"—BTA headline]

[Text] Sofia, February 21 (BTA commentator V.Yankov)— Faithful to the tradition they have established, Bulgaria and Greece are continuing their fruitful political dialogue at high level and the promotion of their relations on the basis of trust. The two-day working visit of friendship, which the prime minister of Greece Mr Andreas Papandreou is to start here tomorrow, is a new confirmation of the striving of the two countries to actively promote their political, economic and cultural contacts. The visit will take place at the invitation of State Council President Todor Zhivkov.

Today it is with good reason that Bulgaro-Greek relations are pointed to as a model of understanding and mutually advantageous cooperation between countries of different social orders which are members of different military political alliances. The progress achieved in the development of bilateral relations is irrefutable and it marked a new peak in September 1986 with the signing of the Declaration for Friendship, Good-Neighborliness and Cooperation between the two countries. This document is an expression of new political thinking in action for establishing a world without weapons and wars. It once again confirmed the invariable attitude of the two countries to the initiatives for turning the Balkans into a zone free of nuclear and chemical weapons. The wide coincidence of the stands of the two countries on the cardinal issues of our times and above all on the issue of averting nuclear war and strengthening peace and security in the Balkans, in Europe and in the world is an important factor of the principled and consistent course of good-neighborly relations.

The latest, seventh visit to Bulgaria of Mr Andreas Papandreou will take place on the eve of the meeting of the ministers of foreign affairs of the Balkan countries in Belgrade and it once again shows the striving of the two countries to establish a climate of trust, understanding and peaceful coexistence on the Balkan Peninsula. It is obvious that the forthcoming Zhivkov-Papandreou talks will be a new step in the dynamic development of Bulgaro-Greek relations and a new impetus to detente in the Balkans and to stabilizing peace in Europe. Because with what they have achieved so far, with their plans for the future and their common striving for peace the two countries are showing the world how to live in our complicated and tense times.

Doynov Returns From Official Visit to Iran

AU192115 Sofia BTA in English
2035 GMT 18 Feb 88

["Bulgaro-Iranian Contacts"—BTA headline]

[Text] Sofia, February 19 (BTA)—Mr Ognyan Doynov, president of the Heavy Engineering Association, returned from Iran today.

During his visit there he was received by Mr Mir Hoseyn Musavi, prime minister of Iran, and conferred with Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati, minister of foreign affairs, with Mr Gholam Reza Aqazadeh, minister of oil, with Mr Mohammad Reza Ayatollahi, minister of mines and metals, with Mr 'Abbas 'Ali Zali, minister of agriculture, and with Mr Mazaheri, president of the Mostazefin Foundation. Mr Doynov and Eng. Behzad Nabavi, minister of heavy industry, signed a protocol on wider cooperation in the field of heavy engineering.

A number of questions concerning contacts in the area of heavy engineering and metallurgy were on the agenda.

Foreign Journalists Visit Belene Prison

AU211910 Sofia BTA in English
1720 GMT 21 Feb 88

[Text] Sofia, February 21 (BTA)—Foreign correspondents and diplomats accredited to Bulgaria paid a three-day visit to the region of Lovech (northern Bulgaria). In the city of Pleven they met representatives of the leadership of the region of Lovech. At the meeting they were acquainted with the socioeconomic development of this region with a population of more than one million.

The guests visited the "Elprom" plant for electric appliances in Lovech and the "Sanya" Knitwear Works in Pleven. They had talks with workers and specialists. They were also acquainted with the construction of Bulgaria's second nuclear power station near the town of Belene.

The journalists and diplomats also visited the prison on the Belene Island and talked with the prisoners. This is a prison for persons who have been sentenced to more than three years for economic or criminal offences of a smaller degree of social risk. The director of the institute answered questions related to the regime and the duties and rights of the prisoners. They were greatly impressed by the possibility which the prisoners have for home leave.

Official Interviewed on New Price Regulations

AU191246 Sofia RABOTNICHESKO DELO in Bulgarian
17 Feb 88 pp 1, 4

[Interview with Vasil Pekhlivanov, "senior scientific fellow, from the Ministry of Economy and Planning", by Mara Georgieva: "Barriers Against Damage and Losses to Consumers"—date and place not given]

[Text] The new regulation on prices became effective as of the beginning of 1988. In this connection Mara Georgieva, a representative of our editorial board, interviewed Vasil Pekhlivanov, senior scientific fellow, from the Ministry of Economy and Planning.

[Georgieva] Could you describe the conditions which made it necessary to develop and apply the new regulation on prices?

[Pekhlivanov] The drafting and putting into effect of the new regulation follows from the need to restructure the pricing system so that it becomes an integral and effective element of the mechanism of self-management. It is a well-known fact that the cost-calculation approach, a method which has been extensively applied in our country for a long time in connection with price formation did not promote the most efficient utilization of the potential of the pricing system in the interest of socialist construction in our country. The prices formed by this method failed to create incentives for the most efficient use of the available material, labor, and financial resources. On the contrary, the recognition of prime cost as a basic element of prices enabled the producers to justify their right to fix prices mainly on the basis of the value of the costs. The importance as price-forming factors of quality, technical standards, and the effect for the consumer were underestimated in the past. All this resulted in an unjustified rise in prices. In a number of cases prices rose faster than production quality improved. The prices did not stimulate the desire for scientific-technical progress. Innovation of production was to a great extent seen as an end in itself, and by no means strengthened our country's position on foreign markets. Subsidies for export goods and for domestic consumption accumulated at the expense of the budget.

The shortcomings of this approach became particularly acute when our economy changed over to intensive development and became more open. This is why the new regulation on prices introduces a basically new approach in connection with price formation.

[Georgieva] What are the main features of this new approach?

[Pekhlivanov] The typical feature of the new regulation is the fact that it requires objective and high-level criteria to be applied in price formation as regards production quality, the level of costs, and terms of sale. The real prices at which our goods are sold on foreign markets represent a condensed expression of these criteria in relation to wholesale prices. This is why wholesale prices are determined on the basis of the aforementioned prices. Accordingly, producers use the international market to justify their right to sell their goods at certain wholesale prices on the domestic market. In this way wholesale prices provide incentives for Bulgarian goods to achieve world quality standards, for their high competitiveness, and for efficiency. Wholesale prices of goods which are not for export are formed on the basis of the prices at which foreign goods of the same type, or even similar Bulgarian goods, are sold, allowing for the differences in quality and technical standards. In both cases the price structures of the international market are applied to our domestic market. Thus, wholesale prices are made a true guideline for scientific-technical progress. Real conditions are created on this basis for introducing progressive, structural changes in Bulgarian economy and for erecting barriers against unjustified price increases.

The high-level, objective criteria for the formation of retail prices find expression in a number of directions. The level of wholesale prices determined by the level of the real prices at which Bulgarian goods are sold on international markets, the maximum limits of trade discounts and turnover tax, as well as the level of retail prices for goods and consumer services established by the Council of Ministers, and linked to the nominal income of the population, are all considered. In a number of cases an upper limit is fixed, beyond which any increase in prices to consumers is prohibited under any circumstances. The quality of goods, their technical standards, and their effect for the consumer are adopted as the chief criteria for establishing lower or higher prices as compared to prices of similar goods. A direct link between production and the market is guaranteed through retail prices, and the consumers' opinions on the quality indicators of goods is highly valued. The role of retail prices as a means of implementing the party's social policy is preserved.

Exceptions from the aforementioned principles for wholesale and retail price formation are admissible only in the last resort, when there are serious reasons, mainly in cases of situations caused by climatic and weather conditions, and with the proviso that such changes should not become the rule. The review of wholesale prices conducted in 1987 confirmed the applicability of the new approach in price formation, without "sabotaging" the retail price level. The retail prices remain unchanged. At the same time, the application of this approach indicated the need, during the period in which our economy is adapting to the high-level criteria of the international market, to use financial levers, applied temporarily, for special purposes, and under specific circumstances, for exerting influence on the producers and consolidating self-management.

[Georgieva] How are the rights of producers and consumers expressed in the field of prices and price formation under the conditions of self-management?

[Pekhlivanov] It is natural and justified that these rights should increase. The promotion of democracy in price management is an important prerequisite for revealing, contrasting, and combining the interests of producers and consumers. The opportunity granted to the commodity producers to form their own prices for all the goods and consumer services they produce and provide testifies to the increase of their rights. The producers, in turn, must justify their reasons for the prices they are setting and proposing. They have extensive rights of negotiation with consumers within the framework of the registered maximum prices. In the case of certain goods they may even agree on specific selling prices outside this framework; they are expected to explain their proposals on amending prices and recalculate, at their own expense, the prices for certain goods that are outdated, no longer in demand, or whose use-by date has expired.

The consumers' rights are greatly increasing. They are authorized to agree draft documents on future prices and to express their opinions on them in documentary form. As for retail prices, this process is carried out by the trading organizations, taking into consideration the recommendations of the Bulgarian Trade Unions and the Fatherland Front consumers' councils. In negotiations on prices the consumers play the role of equal partners. They are entitled to have access to the information on the basis of which prices for given goods are proposed. They are authorized to negotiate additions to maximum prices at the expense of their own financial results, agree special requirements regarding commodities, and submit proposals on price changes, provided that they can justify them.

[Georgieva] How will the observance of price discipline be guaranteed?

[Pekhlivanov] The stipulations of the new regulation on prices pertaining to responsibilities and sanctions provide a guarantee for price discipline. Self-managing economic organizations, for example, are obliged to form, register, agree, and announce prices on the basis of the adopted principles, criteria, and forms. These organizations are responsible for the authenticity of the information on which the proposals are based. They are obliged to publish their prices in the proper manner.

The obligation of managers and officials in a given enterprise to implement internal control, to map out measures, and to observe price discipline is particularly important. The regulations require the collective management organs of the enterprise to systematically discuss the state of this discipline and the results of investigations, and also to adopt measures for eliminating violations.

The role of sanctions is also being enhanced. Fines of double the value of the unlawfully obtained income are to be imposed. The money obtained from sales of goods at illegal prices will be confiscated when the violations are gross and systematic. Officials serving in state organs dealing with prices are also personally responsible and subject to disciplinary and administrative-punitive sanctions in cases where they fail to observe the requirements of the Code on Economic Activities and the new prices regulation in justifying their proposals pertaining to the formation and application of prices, where they fail to exert systematic control in connection with unmasking breaches of discipline in the price sector, where they are involved in dishonest compromises, and so forth.

The most reliable guarantee, however, is contained in the recently published decree of the State Council of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, under which actions of individual enterprises, collectives, and citizens who commit violations of price regulations are to nipped in the bud, and those responsible for such violations subjected to the full rigor of the law.

Georgiev Views District Militia Meetings

AU191644 Sofia RABOTNICHESKO DELO in Bulgarian 18 Feb 88 p 6

[Interview with Colonel Iliya Georgiev, "deputy chief of the District Inspectors Department in the Directorate of the People's Militia," by Plamen Enchev, "representative of the editorial board": "Accountability Reports of District Inspectors: Openly, With No Secrets From the People"]

[Text] The election campaign is in full swing. For this reason the accountability meetings of the district inspectors of the Ministry of Internal Affairs with the population have remained somewhat in the shade. The successful performance of the responsible tasks entrusted to the militia organs in the campaign against crime and the maintenance of public order requires that the authority of these officials of the Ministry of Internal Affairs should be increased even further. Plamen Enchev, a representative of the editorial board, interviewed Colonel Iliya Georgiev, deputy chief of the District Inspectors Department in the Directorate of the People's Militia, about some results of the meetings held so far.

[Enchev] The district inspector is best acquainted with the situation in his district. He is required to display activity, initiative, and creativity in solving the problems of maintaining public order. What are the other directions in his work?

[Georgiev] One principal direction in the work of the district inspectors is the fight against alcoholism and idleness, which are the reasons behind a great proportion of the crimes and other law violations. The inspector who strengthens his cooperation with the labor collectives and the public in the places where they work and live can be successful. The forms of the links and interaction are many and varied. Meetings with the public are one of the traditional and most effective forms. At these meetings the district inspector informs the workers about his work in ensuring public order and fighting crime. [Enchev] The meetings began at the end of 1987, and they will continue into February and March....

[Georgiev] Yes, we are now in the period when the inspectors throughout the country are meeting with the people, reporting on what was done in 1987, and answering questions from the population. Many meetings of district inspectors have been held that were very well prepared, such as those of Captain Marko Markov, who serves in a rayon in the center of Razgrad; of Senior Lieutenant Petur Petrov, who covers the Stavropol District in Pazardzhik; of Captain Stoyan Gatov in one of the rural districts in Plovdiv Oblast; of Captain Khitko Khitkov in Lovech; of Senior Lieutenant Gospodin Zhelev, who serves in a microrayon in Sofia, and others.

[Enchev] Let us not hide the fact that these meetings are not as yet very popular among the population. What are your conclusions concerning the work in the future?

[Georgiev] We are well aware of the weaknesses in the conduct of the meetings. These include the superficial and insufficiently comprehensive treatment of the problems set out in the briefings of the district inspectors, and also the lack of feedback from the citizens in some places—all the result of poor preparation. The people attending are mainly elderly, pensioners, yet we know that these meetings also play a preventative role. Another point is that citizens are as yet tending to look for sensations at these meetings, they do not suppose that they too are expected to become involved and actively take part in the general struggle against negative phenomena and social distortions. In this context there is a need for greater support on the part of the Fatherland Front committees, public figures, and the entire population.

Leaders Public Appearances 11-19 February

AU201715 [Editorial Report] Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian in its newcasts, the Sofia press, and BTA during the 14-19 February monitoring period report the following public appearances of Bulgarian leaders (sourceline of each report given in parentheses):

Georgi Atanasov, member of the BCP Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the Council of Ministers, received in Sofia on 19 February Ladislav Gerle, deputy premier of the CSSR, who had signed an agreement on the import of a Czechoslovak nuclear reactor into Bulgaria. (Sofia BTA in English 1832 GMT 19 Feb 88)

Chudomir Aleksandrov, Politburo member and secretary of the BCP Central Committee, attended a reception at the DPRK Embassy in Sofia on 16 February to mark Kim Il-song's birthday. (Sofia RABOTNICHESKO DELO in Bulgarian 17 Feb 88 p 8)

Milko Balev, Politburo member and secretary of the BCP Central Committee, left Sofia for Madrid on 17 February at the head of a BCP delegation to attend the 12th Spanish Communist Party Congress. (Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian 2030 GMT 17 Feb 88). In Madrid on 18 February he held talks with Spanish political figures. (Sofia BTA in English 2010 GMT 18 Feb 88)

Ognyan Doynov, member of the BCP Central Committee Politburo, attended a national day reception at the Iranian Embassy in Sofia on 11 February. (Sofia RABOTNICHESKO DELO in Bulgarian 12 Feb 88 p 2) On 19 February he returned to Sofia from a working visit to Tehran. (Sofia BTA in English 2035 GMT 19 Feb 88) Petur Dyulgerov, candidate member of the BCP Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the Central Council of Bulgarian Trade Unions, held talks in Sofia on 15 February with a visiting Congolese trade union delegation, (Sofia BTA in English 1418 GMT 15 Feb 88) and on 16 February signed a communique in Sofia marking the end of the talks. (Sofia TRUD in Bulgarian 17 Feb 88 pp 1, 4)

Andrey Lukanov, candidate member of the BCP Central Committee Politburo and minister of foreign economic relations, had talks in Sofia with the visiting CSSR deputy premier, Ladislav Gerle. (Sofia BTA in English 1832 GMT 19 Feb 88)

Georgi Yordanov, candidate member of the BCP Central Committee and minister of culture, science, and education, met with Juan Antonio Samaranch, president of the International Olympic Committee, in Calgary on 16 February; he also met with Canadian ministers, foreign politicians, and sports officials. (Sofia BTA in English 1939 GMT 16 Feb 88)

Stoyan Mikhaylov, secretary of the BCP Central Committee, attended a festive meeting and tattoo held in Sofia on 19 February to mark the 115th anniversary of the death of the revolutionary hero Vasil Levski. (Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian 1830 GMT 19 Feb 88)

Observers To Attend FRG-U.S. Maneuvers

AU191350 Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech
17 Feb 88 p 1

[Text] Prague (CTK)—The FRG and the United States of America have announced that an exercise of U.S. and FRG troops, codenamed "Caravan Guard," will be held on FRG territory between 17 February and 1 March 1988. In accordance with the Stockholm conference's document on confidence-building measures and security and disarmament in Europe, Czechoslovak observers will attend the exercise for its entire duration.

Cuban Foreign Minister Begins Working Visit

Chnoupek Meets Malmierca

LD191821 Prague CTK in English
1735 GMT 19 Feb 88

[Text] Prague Feb 19 (CTK)—Czechoslovak Foreign Minister Bohuslav Chnoupek received here today Cuban counterpart Isidoro Malmierca Peoli, currently on a short working visit to Czechoslovakia, to discuss the present international situation and prospects of the development of bilateral relations.

The two ministers noted that the signing of the Soviet-U.S. INF treaty created good preconditions for the continuation of the disarmament process. They also discussed the situation in Central America and other hotbeds of tension in the world.

They highly appreciated the role of the Nonaligned Movement and the attention it pays to the questions of peace, disarmament and comprehensive system of international security.

Discussing Czechoslovak-Cuban relations, Bohuslav Chnoupek and Isidoro Malmierca Peoli noted their high level in all spheres and stressed that they must be further enriched with new, dynamic and higher forms of cooperation.

Havana Radio Reports Visit

FL201317 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish
1207 GMT 20 Feb 88

[Text] Meeting in Prague, CSSR and Cuban Foreign Ministers Bohuslav Chnoupek and Isidoro Malmierca have examined bilateral and international relations. They concurred that the present atmosphere is favorable as a result of the Soviet-U.S. agreement to eliminate short- and intermediate-range missiles. This analysis of the international situation took place during the working visit to the CSSR by a Cuban delegation headed by Malmierca.

They highly valued the role of the Nonaligned Movement and the attention that the movement's members pay to the issues of peace, disarmament, and the creation of a global security system. Cuba and the CSSR confirmed the high level reached in bilateral relations and noted the need to augment cooperation through the use of more dynamic measures.

USSR's Silayev Arrives for Energy Session

LD212116 Prague CTK in English
2056 GMT 21 Feb 88

[Text] Prague Feb 21 (CTK)—A Soviet delegation arrived here tonight to attend the 12th session of Soviet and Czechoslovak Government representatives on the implementation of the program of cooperation in the sphere of nuclear power engineering till the year 2000 and a session on the further development of cooperation in the engineering industry.

The Soviet delegation is led by Deputy Premier and Chairman of the Council of Ministers Bureau for the Engineering Industry Ivan Silayev.

'Campaign' To Discredit Waldheim Viewed

AU191145 Bratislava PRAVDA in Slovak
18 Feb 88 p 7

[Bedrich Zagar commentary in "On the Margin" column: "It Is Up to the Austrian People"]

[Text] The affair around the person of Austrian President Kurt Waldheim in connection with his past (as an officer of the German Wehrmacht in Yugoslavia and Greece during World War II) has reached such dimensions that people in Austria are now speaking of a state crisis. A few days ago Federal Chancellor Franz Vranitzky declared that the anti-Waldheim campaign was unbearable for the coalition government, and that he was forced to devote a lot of time to it instead of to the urgent problems of the country.

The campaign against Kurt Waldheim was generated at the initiative of the World Jewish Congress (which has its headquarters in New York), which accused Kurt Waldheim of participating in the persecution and liquidation of Yugoslav partisans and in the deportation of Greek Jews to concentration camps. Although to this very day no authentic documents proving such activities on Waldheim's part have been presented, the campaign continues; it has made it necessary to set up an international commission of historians to investigate the true state of affairs on the basis of accessible documents. In its more than 200-page report, the commission states that Kurt Waldheim did not personally commit any offense as an officer of the German Wehrmacht; but that his "cooperation in connection with unlawful act facilitated them."

In a television address on Monday [15 February] President Waldheim declared that he does not intend to resign and rejected the report of the international commission. He stressed that his conscience was clear, adding that were he to "retreat before external pressures," this would cause "many serious difficulties." But even K. Waldheim's television address has not changed the situation; on the contrary, the pressure for him to resign has increased both from abroad, and also within Austria itself. The Austrian public is split in its views on the Waldheim affair: one part is in favor of his resigning and the other is in favor of his remaining.

The situation is similar in the coalition government: most socialists believe that the president himself must draw appropriate conclusions from the facts; they indicate that the best thing would be for him to leave, since the campaign is a heavy burden on Austria. On the other hand, the representatives of the Austrian People's Party (OeVP) and, above all, Party Chairman Alois Mock are claiming that no activities in the nature of war crimes have been proved against Waldheim and he should therefore remain in office. However, on the basis of the report drawn up by the international commission of historians, Waldheim is now being reproached for denying (during the election campaign, but also to this very day) what the report has proved about him: that he had not told the truth. The Austrian president's "credibility" has been shaken, the report says.

The fact is that the many, frequently contradictory, reports have created a politically unpleasant situation in Austria—the political parties disagree in their appraisal of the head of state and are striving to make use of the situation in order to promote their own interests. Obviously these are identical with the interests of the political forces in the West, aimed at discrediting the Austrian president internationally. But the final and decisive word belongs to the Austrian people, who have constitutionally elected their president and who can also decide on his future as statesman.

CPCZ Presidium Assesses Party Activity

LD191546 Prague Domestic Service in Czech
1400 GMT 19 Feb 88

[Text] The CPCZ Central Committee Presidium met today to discuss the state of preparations for the gala session of the CPCZ Central Committee; the Central Committee of the National Front of the CSSR; the Federal Assembly Presidium and the Federal Government on the 40th anniversary of the victory of the working people of Czechoslovakia over reaction in February 1948. The gala session will be held on Wednesday 24 February at Prague Castle. Comrade Milos Jakes, general secretary of the CPCZ Central Committee and chairman of the Central Committee of the National Front of the CSSR will deliver a speech.

The Presidium also discussed the principles and the course of the restructuring of the organization structures of the production, technical, scientific-technical, research, and circulation bases of the national economy with regard to national enterprises. The aim of this restructuring, in harmony with gradual application of the elements and tools of the new economic mechanism, is to create suitable organization conditions. This means abolishing the current territorial and sector interlinks, which weaken and dilute the effectiveness of central management, and burden management with undue expenses. It is expected that the change of structures will remove the negative consequences of the one-sided principle of organizations based on a branch, sector, or territorial division. This should prevent attitudes that are too narrowly beamed to one sector, and to create conditions for the creation of a flexible basis of organizations that will be differentiated by size and technology, and located according to the needs of the economic and social development of society. It should also create conditions for the advancement of working people's initiative.

The Presidium emphasized that state enterprises and also other economic organizations equipped with material and manpower resources, must be capable of self-financing within the framework of principles and conditions defined by the law. They must also be able to create and implement the concepts of development, while satisfying as effectively as possible the needs of society, to safeguard their long-term development in the sphere of enterprises entrusted to them, and to maintain total responsibility based on financial autonomy for the new activity in harmony with the all-society plans and demands.

When discussing the principles and the course of restructuring of organization structures, the Presidium endorsed the measures adopted by the federal government in its resolution of 11 February.

The CPCZ Central Committee Presidium discussed and concluded the results of the party ingestigations into activities of further officials from the ranks of CPCZ members who were proved—in connection with the sentencing of Stanislav Babinsky and his associates—to have violated the principles of communist morality. In keeping with the offense, the Presidium decided on Party Publishments, up to expulsion from the party. In the case of a number of comrades the investigation revealed they were wrongly accused. The general public will be informed about the decision of the CPCZ Central Committee Presidium in a RUDE PRAVO editorial article.

The Presidium again emphasized the need to promote consistently in practice the tasks following from the 1983 letter it sent to Party bodies and organizations to deepen the effectivity of the fight against the violation of the principles of socialist law, morality, and discipline, party bodies, organizations and communists, especially workers in charge, are obliged to apply everywhere in daily life the demands that follow from the letter. Any lack of consistency of considerations for the position of individuals, or even attempts to protect officials and senior workers who violated these principles, evoke distrust toward the party.

The violation of state and Party discipline cannot be discussed in general. Such cases must be tackled firmly and suitable conclusion drawn, and it is necessary to insist that the causes of shortcomings removed.

The Presidium also criticized the slowness of investigation bodies, the prosecution office and court in the Babinskiy case.

The CPCZ Central Committee Presidium then discussed some further issues concerning life inside the Party.

Jakes Greets Militiamen on 40th Anniversary

LD221042 Prague Domestic Service in Czech 1000 GMT 22 Feb 88

[Text] To mark the 40th anniversary of the victorious February and the birth of the People's Militias, the CPCZ Central Committee today received members of the People's Militias in Prague Castle. Milos Jakes, general secretary of the CPCZ Central Committee, cordially greeted militiamen from all over the country. He sincerely thanked them for their honest and selfless fulfillment of working duties and tasks emanating from the People's Militias' mission of protecting the revolutionary gains of the people and the socialist system.

Hajn Addresses 'February' Exhibition Opening

AU211956 Bratislava PRAVDA in Slovak 16 Feb 88 pp 1,2

["Speech" by Jaroslav Hajn, chairman of the CPCZ's Central Control and Auditing Commission, at the opening of the "February and Today" exhibition marking the "40th anniversary of the victory of the working people," in Prague on 15 February]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] The world has changed in the past 40 years. New realities have emerged, and it has been necessary to take a realistic approach to them. The party did that at its 17th Congress, and the Central Committee elaborated its resolution at its sessions.

The conclusions of the seventh CPCZ Central Committee session are the fundamental milestone in the development of our entire society. The path to their fulfillment will not be easy.

The party has been able to look at the facts, and all the weak spots and shortcomings realistically. It openly noted that despite our successes, we have not completely mastered the transition from extensive to intensive economy, we have not succeeded in fully interconnecting the effects of the social revolution with the scientific-technical revolution.

Therefore restructuring the economic mechanism and our entire social life is for us a historic necessity. [passage omitted]

The strategy of the acceleration of economic and social development, of democratization and peace, leads our entire society to the full utilization of the entire potential of the socialist system, to proving its dynamism in the economic sphere, to the ability to ensure its defense, as well to the comprehensive development of man and ensuring the population's permanent high standard of living. [passage omitted]

Should we take a critical glance at our work to date, we would see that we are considerably lagging in the genuinely consistent realization of the—many and good—party resolutions. In this respect we still must do much political-organizational, ideoeducational, and control work at all levels. In order for the Central Committee resolutions to quickly make their way down to all primary organizations. In order for all Communists to begin implementing them without delay. In order for every Communist to openly identify with party policy. In order that he might become a model for others. Like it was in February [1948].

And this, Comrades, is very necessary.

What is involved today is no less than what was involved in February. It was the paving of the path toward socialism then, it is the continuation of that path today. The present might not seem as dramatic as the February events at first glance, but this must not mislead us. The situation today is more complex from the domestic-political as well as from the international point of view, problems are more intertwined, the boundaries of class interests are not always clearly defined. However, the class struggle, the struggle for socialism, continues, even though under different conditions and with other means. Its result, like 40 years ago, will depend on every Communist.

Let us always keep in mind: The lesson of February 1948—that the development of socialism in our country has a permanent support in our firm alliance with the Soviet Union, in an alliance which is increasingly acquiring also a concrete form of a very close economic cooperation. Gottwald's slogan "With the Soviet Union and Never Otherwise" as well as the time and again verified truth that one has to learn from the experience of Lenin's party continues to be valid. The idea of socialist internationalism continues to be, for us, the criterion of views as well as the practical procedure in politics and in the economy.

The informal party's leading role in society recognized by the people and socialist internationalism—these fundamental prerequisites of the February victory—remain unchangeable principles of our policy. [passage omitted]

Beno at Temelin Nuclear Power Plant Site

AU191510 Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech 17 Feb 88 p 2

[Text] Temelin (CTK)—CPCZ Central Committee Secretary Mikulas Beno paid a visit to the construction site of the nuclear power plant in Temelin in southern

Bohemia on Tuesday [16 February]. He was accompanied by Jaroslav Slavik, leading secretary of the CPCZ's South Bohemian Regional Committee; Vladimir Patek, head of a CPCZ Central Committee department; and Jaroslav Vavra, minister of construction of the Czech SR. During a chat with ranking personnel and during the inspection of the construction site, Mikulas Beno expressed interest in the current situation of and the outlook for this largest power engineering project, in the work of the Communists at the project, the course of the annual membership meetings, and the issues connected with social policy.

This year, the builders will carry out work valued at almost Kcs1,5 billion, which is a two thirds increase, compared with the previous year.

One of the main tasks, for example, is the construction of the reactor hall and the first of the total of eight 155-meter high cooling towers. However, in order to fulfill tasks smoothly, one needs at all times, for example, enough special construction elements, aggregates, and cement. Irregular deliveries of some materials, in the same way as the failure to improve of the situation regarding the quality and number of cranes, could cause considerable problems in the organization of work, and thus also in the fulfillment of the plan, which has been adhered to up to now.

RUDE PRAVO on Results of Babinsky Case

LD201007 Prague CTK in English
0844 GMT 20 Feb 88

[Text] Prague Feb 20 (CTK)—The Czechoslovak Communist Party Presidium discussed at its yesterday's session the results of investigation in connection with the sentencing of Stanislav Babinsky and drew conclusions in tune with the Communist Party statutes, RUDE PRAVO wrote today.

The party investigation of the criminal activities of Stanislav Babinsky and his accomplices has been concluded. Those who were members of the Communist Party had been expelled from the party earlier upon the decision of the Czechoslovak Communist Party Presidum, the Slovak Communist Party Presidium and other party bodies.

Steps were taken also against other party and economic representatives of the district of Dolny Kubin, Slovakia, who were involved in the activities of Babinsky.

In connection with the investigation of the Babinsky case, the Czechoslovak Communist Party Presidium ordered the setting up of a working commission to investigate whether the activities of certain functionaries—party members whose names were quoted during the Babinsky trial, too, were not at variance with the Czechoslovak Communist Party statutes and the principles of the Communist Party Presidium letter of 1983 on increasing the efficiency of the struggle against violations of the principles of socialist legality, morals and discipline.

The investigation proved that during the interrogations certain statements of Babinsky had a character of political provocations against a number of persons who in fact committed no crimes.

These slanderous accusations were misused, with the same provocative aims, by certain Western information media, for instance the West German SPIEGEL and the Voice of America. The investigating bodies therefore paid great attention to the credibility of the testimonies of Babinsky and witnesses. A number of persons whom Babinsky and later also certain Western information media tried to falsely accuse were not found guilty.

On the other hand, the investigation proved various degrees of moral responsibility for wrong-doings of certain other functionaries—members of the Communist Party and state organs and their responsibility for the violation of the party and state discipline.

The investigation showed that certain officials supported Babinsky's activity as they regarded it as the beginning as efforts to develop the production of consumer goods from local resources. Babinsky used these contacts and later also misused them.

The party investigation proved moral guilt and responsibility of a number of Communist Party members and the breaches of party and state discipline.

On the grounds of produced evidence, the Czechoslovak Communist Party Presidium decided at its session on February 19, 1988—in harmony with the stand of the Slovak Communist Party Presidium—on party penalties.

Jan Kovac, Former Czechoslovak First deputy interior minister, and Stanislav Dudasek, former Slovak Communist Party Central Committee department head, were expelled from the party for serious violation of the party statutes.

The Czechoslovak Communist Party Presidium further decided on the following penalties: reprimand with a warning to five party, state and economic representatives, and reprimand to another 11 members of the Communist Party.

The daily wrote in this connection that the undignified and dishonest behavior of certain Communists is harmful to the party to a great extent. The party is not indifferent to these phenomena. In harmony with the party Presidium letter of 1983, a number of leading representatives were dismissed from their posts in the past years on the grounds of misusing their positions and given party penalties, including expulsion from the party, and called to account.

The Czechoslovak Communist party daily further recalled in connection with the Babinsky case the demand of the 17th Czechoslovak Communist Party Congress to raise substantially the level and efficiency of control in the whole political activity and at the level of executive bodies.

There, where control—both from above and from below—is not duly applied, there is the danger that shortcomings could accumulate and grow into serious material and political—moral harm. It is the duty of all party bodies at all levels of party structures to use control as a tool of political leadership. No one, whatever his post may be, can be protected from control. This basic lesson arises also from the party investigation which the Czechoslovak Communist Party Presidium concluded.

The decision of the Presidium was motivated by the principled policy. Those who, in connection with the Babinsky case, violated the moral norms binding every party member, without exception, to act in harmony with the party statutes have been rightfully reprimanded, regardless of their posts they hold or held, RUDE PRAVO concluded.

Leaders Public Appearances 30 Jan-5 Feb

AU091642 [Editorial Report] Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech and Bratislava PRAVDA in Slovak on 31 January-6 February report the following appearances of CSSR leaders (source, date, and page number of each report is given in parentheses):

Vladimir Herman, candidate member of the CPCZ Central Committee Presidium and leading secretary of the CPCZ's South Moravian Regional Committee, presented the Order of Labor to Ladislav Trojan, secretary of the CPCZ's South Moravian Regional Committee, on the occasion of the latter's 50th birthday in Brno on 1 February. (Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech 2 Feb p 2)

Peter Colotka, CPCZ Central Committee Presidium member and premier of the Slovak SR, received Julio Barboza, the new Argentinian ambassador to the CSSR, in Bratislava on 1 February. (Bratislava PRAVDA in Slovak 1 Feb p 1)

Vasil Bilak, member of the Presidium and secretary of the CPCZ Central Committee, and Alois Indra, CPCZ Central Committee Presidium member and chairman of the CSSR Federal Assembly, received Hungarian ambassador Bela Kovacs in connection with the approaching end of his tour of duty in the CSSR, in Prague on 2 February. (Bratislava PRAVDA in Slovak 3 Feb p 1)

Jozef Lenart, CPCZ Central Committee Presidium member and first secretary of the CPSL Central Committee, paid a visit to the "Datasystem 88" exhibition in Bratislava on 2 February. (Bratislava PRAVDA in Slovak 3 Feb p 1)

Josef Haman, candidate member of the Presidium and secretary of the CPCZ Central Committee, inspected a modernized small hydroelectric power plant in Prague-Stvanice on 2 February. (Bratislava PRAVDA in Slovak 3 Feb p 2)

Jan Fojtik, candidate member of the Presidium and secretary of the CPCZ Central Committee, attended and addressed a party aktiv in Nymburk on 3 February. (Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech 4 Feb p 2)

Ladislav Adamec, CPCZ Central Committee Presidium member and premier of the Czech SR; Peter Colotka; Alois Indra; Antonin Kapek, CPCZ Central Committee Presidium member and leading secretary of the CPCZ's Prague City Committee; Lubomir Strougal, CPCZ Central Committee Presidium member and CSSR premier; Josef Haman; Vladimir Herman; Frantisek Pitra, candidate member of the Presidium and secretary of the CPCZ Central Committee; and Jindrich Polednik, CPCZ Central Committee secretary; attended the funeral of Antonin Himl, member of the CPCZ Central Committee and of the Presidium of the CSSR Federal Assembly, in Prague on 3 February. (Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech 4 Feb p 2)

Josef Haman received Ivan Glushkov, USSR deputy minister of non-ferrous metallurgy, in Prague on 4 February. (Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech 5 Feb p 2)

Miloslav Hruskovic, candidate member of the CPCZ Central Committee Presidium and CPSL Central Committee secretary, and Jozef Lenart paid a visit to the Avex enterprise in Bratislava on 4 February. (Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech 5 Feb p 2)

Bohuslav Chnoupek, CSSR minister of foreign affairs, received Thomas Klestil, general secretary of the Austrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in Prague on 5 February. (Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech 6 Feb p 2)

Galvin Fear of Weapons 'Gap' Rejected

AU220834 East Berlin NEUES DEUTSCHLAND in German 18 Feb 88 p 6

[He. commentary: "Worries, Fears, and Opinions of a General"]

[Text] He has again made a statement—agitative in substance and, as usual, emotionally biased: Threat, danger, concern, and fear are the main "reasons" why he wants modernization. We are speaking of U.S. General John Galvin, European NATO commander in chief.

There is the Soviet-U.S. treaty on the elimination of intermediate missiles. The GDR and the FRG, from whose territories they are being eliminated, have actively contributed to achieving the treaty.

Now, further steps must be taken. There is the prospect of the Soviet-U.S. agreement on a 50-percent reduction of their strategic offensive weapons, with the ABM Treaty being observed. With regard to the two German states, the areas in which arms control and disarmament is to be continued, are defined in the Joint Communique on Erich Honecker's visit to the FRG: tactical nuclear weapons together with the Armed Forces and conventional weapons, chemical weapons, space weapons, a nuclear test freeze...

However, where others see new opportunities after the Washington treaty Galvin only fears—"a gap." And, of course, gaps have to be filled. Thus the commander claims in an interview with SUEDDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG "that in time we will need a modernization in all ranges (!) of nuclear weapons, and also in the conventional sector." There he has, above all, tactical nuclear missiles in mind—while the FRG Government does not consider it necessary to decide on this modernization. In addition, on artillery that can be used in the nuclear sector. "The grenades are already being modernized." And: "I would like to see chemical weapons stored in Europe." Here the general thinks of those new U.S. binary weapons which the whole world protests. The FRG Government—like us—demands a general prohibition of all chemical weapons. At last the general is asked if he is fearful of disarmament tendencies in general. Reply: "I fear them. I am worried, even very worried."

Summary: Galvin does not want disarmament, and with it stability and safety, to advance in Europe. He and people like him fling the expectations of the peoples to the winds. Thus, it also becomes clear that—as Erich Honecker said—"in the future, too, it will be possible to achieve progress in accordance with reason and realism only by persevering efforts, against the will of those who are still dreaming of military superiority and who tend to take hazardous risks which are intended to replace the disarmament necessary in the nuclear and conventional sectors by modernizing armaments." Disarmament itself remains a struggle for disarmament.

GDR Sentences FRG Citizen for Espionage

LD191659 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 1606 GMT 19 Feb 88

[Text] Berlin, 19 Feb (ADN)—The Berlin Higher Military Court sentenced an FRG citizen, Klaus Weirauch, to 8 years imprisonment for espionage activity against the GDR in line with paragraphs 98 and 63 (2) of the Penal Code on Friday.

It was demonstrated in the trial that as a recruited, trained, and paid agent of the Federal Office for the Protection of the Constitution and a NATO Secret Service, Weirauch spied to gain information to the detriment of the GDR's interests for a number of years. In passing sentence, the court took into consideration the fact that the imperialist secret services used massive pressure in recruiting Weirauch as an agent and in making him carry out espionage activity. It became clear in the trial that measures of this nature by imperialist secret services are not conducive to bilateral efforts for the development of economic cooperation between the GDR and the FRG and Berlin (West).

70th Anniversary of USSR Armed Forces Marked

Honecker Meets, Fetes Kulikov

LD191213 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 1112 GMT 19 Feb 88

[Text] Berlin, 19 Feb (ADN)—Erich Honecker, general secretary of the SED Central Committee and chairman of the State Council and the GDR National Defense Council, received on Friday Viktor Kulikov, the commander in chief of the joint armed forces of the Warsaw Pact member states and marshal of the Soviet Union, who is in the GDR.

During the friendly meeting, Marshal of the Soviet Union Kulikov conveyed greetings from Mikhail Gorbachev, CPSU Central Committee general secretary, which were warmly reciprocated by Erich Honecker.

The SED Central Committee general secretary congratulated the marshal of the Soviet Union on the 70th anniversary of the Soviet Army and naval fleet on behalf of the party and state leadership and the entire people, and gave an assurance that the GDR and its Armed Forces would continue to do their utmost at the side of the Soviet Union and the other fraternal states to reliably protect peace and the socialist achievements of our countries.

The two sides had a comprehensive exchange of views on the latest developments in the international situation and on questions related to the strengthening of cooperation between the GDR, the USSR, and their Armed Forces.

Erich Honecker emphasized that the GDR would adhere strictly to the obligations resulting from the Soviet-U.S. treaty on the liquidation of the nuclear intermediate- and shorter-range missiles. He described the return of the shorter-range missiles from GDR territory to the USSR in advance of the treaty going into effect as a renewed expression of the constructive peace policy of the USSR, the GDR, and the other socialist states, and as a concrete contribution to ending the arms race and improving the international climate.

Erich Honecker also informed his guest about the tasks stipulated in his speech to the first secretaries of the SED Districh (Dreis) Executives for the further implementation of the decisions of the 11th SED Congress in the domestic and foreign policy spheres.

The meeting, which proceeded in a friendly atmpsphere, was attended by SED Central Committee Politburo members Heinz Kessler, minister of national defense, and Egon Krenz, secretary of the SED Cental Committee, as well as Colonel Fritz Streletz, deputy defense minister and chief of the Main Staff of the NVA (National People's Army].

Festive Celebration Announced

AU181616 East Berlin NEUES DEUTSCHLAND in German 17 Feb 88 p 2

[Text] Berlin (ADN)—On the 70th anniversary of the Soviet Army a festive event of the SED Central Committee, the State Council, the Council of Ministers, and the National Council of the National Front of the GDR will take place in the German State Opera House in Berlin, Unter den Linden, on Friday, 19 February 1988, at 1600 hours. The ceremonial speech will be held by Army General Heinz Kessler, member of the SED Central Committee Politburo and GDR minister of national defense. Victor Kulikov, marshal of the Soviet Union, commander in chief of the Joint Armed Forces of Warsaw Pact Nations, first USSR deputy minister of defense, will deliver a greetings message.

The ensuing cultural program will be arranged by the Erich-Weinert-Ensemble of the GDR National People's Army, the Central Singing and Dancing Ensemble of the Soviet Armed Forces in Germany, the Orchestra of the Staff of the Group of Soviet Forces in Germany, and the Central Orchestra of the National People's Army.

Honecker Addresses Event

LD191724 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 1504 GMT 19 Feb 88

[Text] Berlin, 19 Feb (ADN)—A festive event is taking place in Berlin on Friday afternoon, held by the SED Central Committee, the State Council, the Council of Ministers, and the National Council of the GDR National Front to mark the 70th anniversary of the Soviet Army. Among those given a warm welcome at the State Operate in Unter Den Linden were Erich Honecker, general secretary of the SED Central Committee and Chairman of the State Council and the GDR National Defense council, other members of the party and state leadership, and high military officials in the Soviet Army. The festive address is to be given by Army General Heinz Kessler, member of the SED Central Committee Politburo and minister of national defense. Afterwards Marshal of the Soviet Union Viktor Kulikov, commander in chief of the joint armed forces of the Warsaw Pact states and USSR first deputy defense minister, will deliver a greetings address.

Kulikov Addresses Meeting

LD191911 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 1651 GMT 19 Feb 88

[Text] Berlin, 19 Feb (ADN)—In his greetings address, Marshal Kulikov first expressed thanks for the appreciation expressed for the Soviet Army and Navy on the occasion of their 70th anniversary. He continued:

This significant event is being marked both in the Soviet Union and in the fraternal socialist countries.

Great respect is properly shown to the Soviet Army for its outstanding contribution to the defense of the achievements of the workers and to the national and social liberation of the peoples.

Its creation and growth reflects a heroic militant path, from the numerically small and poorly trained Red Guard departments to the modern socialist Army.

This was a way of struggles and victories, of selfless service for the cause of socialism and peace. History itself has proved this vividly.

In the thirties and forties, imperialist circles tried repeatedly to test the stability of our state borders in the Far East, in Mongolia and in the north of our country. These provocative actions were always properly rebuffed.

However, the superiority of Soviet military strategy and leadership became absolutely clear in the gigantic battles of the Great Patriotic War from 1941 to 1945.

Strategic farsightedness, action in achieving operational objectives, and the ability to forge into one unit the patriotism of the Army and the strength of the military equipment ensured the historic victory.

The partisan armies and departments of Yugoslavia, Poland, Czechoslovakia, the patriots of Bulgaria, Romania, Albania, and Hungary fought shoulder by shoulder with Soviet soldiers.

The German Communists, internationalists, and antifascists conducted a courageous fight against fascism. Among them were outstanding functionaries of the German revolutionary movement such as Ernst Thaelmann, Wilhelm Pieck, Walter Ulbricht, Erich Honecker, Heinz Hoffmann, Erich Mielke, Friedrich Dickel, Heinz Kessler, and many others.

The armies of the anti-Hitler coalition made a great contribution to achieving victory in World War II.

The longed-for freedom was brought to the peoples of Eastern Europe and democratic changes began.

It appeared that peace had come to our planet for a long time. But what happened? The post-war years were characterized by the "cold war," the arms race, and the "policy of strength." In view of the looming danger, the Soviet Union could naturally not remain passive. The military-technical policy of the Communist Party made it possible to modernize the weapons of the Soviet Army, to raise its strength and combat readiness to a qualitatively new level and to ensure strategic military parity between the Soviet Union and the United States.

A new approach to the principles of military training and upbringing of Army personnel was also necessary.

At the same time, the fighting community of the soldiers of the allied countries was strengthened. Internationalist and fraternal relations were strengthened in the joint armed forces of the Warsaw Pact states.

The NVA [National People's Army] is a firm part of it. It has well-trained soldiers devoted to their socialist homeland and is equipped with modern weapons and military technology. Its formations and units are led by educated and capable generals, officers, and NCO.

Truly fraternal relations have formed between our Armies. Joint exercises, the exchange of experience, and the "weeks of comradeship-in-arms" are just a few examples of the continuously developing and deepening internationalist relations between the GSFG [Group of Soviet Forces in Germany] and the NVA, which together with the other Armies of the joint forces are reliably protecting the Western borders of our defense alliance.

Through the efforts of the communist and workers parties of the Warsaw Pact member states, a set of constructive measures for building confidence and cooperation in relations between the various countries was worked out and is now being realized. These measures are based on the program for the reduction of armaments and armed forces to the year 2000.

The proposal for the creation of a nuclear-free corridor in central Europe made by the Socialist Unity Party of Germany and the Czechoslovak Communist Party deserves special attention.

Of principal importance within our constructive proposals is the military doctrine of the Warsaw Pact member states adopted at the Berlin meeting of the Political Consultative Committee in May 1987 which convincingly expresses the defensive character of the strategy of socialism.

Nevertheless, the defense capability of the socialist community of states and the combat readiness of the joint armed forces must always be at such a level that nobody will entertain the hope at any time of attacking the historic achievements of our peoples.

I can note with satisfaction that the soldiers of the Soviet Armed Forces, the NVA, and the other fraternal armies are very aware of the importance of this task and work steadily to accomplish it.

Please permit me to thank you for the fraternal feelings expressed here towards the Soviet Armed Forces, and to wish the workers of the GDR and the NVA new successes in achieving the targets marked out by the 11th SED Congress.

Long live the inviolable fraternal friendship and overall cooperation of the peoples and armies of the Soviet Union and the GDR.

Kessler Addresses Celebration

LD191755 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 1620 GMT19 Feb 88

["From the Festive Address by Minister Heinz Kessler"—ADN headline]

[Text] Berlin, 19 Feb (ADN)—We have gathered here to honor the USSR Armed Forces who celebrate the 70th anniversary of their founding on 23 February 1988, Army General Heinz Kessler said. At the same time we are marking the start of the "Week of Comradeship-in-Arms," which for 20 years now has been celebrated between 23 February and 1 March, the birthdays of our two socialist Armies, in all areas and districts of our Republic.

The 70 years of the Soviet Army and Navy are 7 decades of service full of privation and of a heroic and self-sacrificing struggle to create and safeguard peace, for the defense of the Soviet homeland, and for the protection of the new, humane society. They are 7 decades of glorious struggles and victories of an Army, which since the hour of its birth has seen its most noble task as that of putting an end to war between peoples and nations. Peace is the highest goal of its existence, and has remained so throughout the years.

It is difficult to capture in words or pictures how the soldiers and sailors of the land of the Soviets have stood by the Lenin Decree on Peace and what they have done to protect socialism and to bring the peoples closer to the fulfillment of the age-old dream of lasting peace. When it was a matter of saving the young and still weak Soviet Republic from the onslaught of the counterrevolutionary bands, the White Guard armies and the interventionist troops from 14 countries, the formations of the Red Army of workers and peasants performed a gigantic achievement, when one thinks of the absolutely overwhelming material and technical superiority of the counterrevolution and world imperialism.

This fighting spirit, born out of the power of the people, deep love of the true homeland of the working people, and socialist patriotism and proletarian internationalism, together with knowledge of Marxism-Leninism and socialist military science, has proved to be a strong source of invincibility in all periods of the history of the Soviet Union and its Armed Forces.

The heroic defense of the Soviet homeland, the liberation of the peoples of Central and Eastern Europe from the yoke of fascist German imperialism and its satellites, the liberation of northeast China and Korea from Japanese occupation, the smashing of the main groups of the armed forces of the fascist Axis powers and the taking of Berlin, the citadel of the "Third Reich"—all these historic achievements testify to the fact that the peoples of the Soviet Union and the Soviet Armed Forces had the heaviest burden to bear in World War II and under this burden accomplished the greatest feat of liberation of all time.

With the liberation from Hitlerite barbarism the way was also freed for the German people to build a new, democratic Germany. The German communists, the party of Karl Liebknecht, Ernst Thaelmann, and Wilhelm Pieck, for whom solidarity with the Russian revolution and the fraternal alliance with the Soviet people was already part of the inviolable basic positions of German working class policy since 1917, placed themselves at the head of all antifascists, all forces ready for reconstruction and peace, together with their Social Democrat class comrades. They made use of the historic opportunity and created a German state run by the workers and peasants, in which the fruits of selfless and hard work belong to the working people, and them alone, and from which war will never again emanate.

With the existence for more than a decade of an open border with the NATO bloc the antifascist democratic order was set up, the foundations of socialism were created and, finally, the advanced socialist society was shaped, which we have been doing through unification of economic and social policy with increasingly solid results since the Eighth Congress. In his speech to the first secretaries of kreis executives a few days ago, Erich Honecker referred in a very convincing and insistent manner to this historical continuity.

While the Western occupation powers, in association with the West German monopoly capitalism, blocked any truly democratic development, disregarded the Potsdam Agreement of the allies of the anti-Hitler coalition, hindered and prevented its consistent implementation, and divided Germany, the soldiers of the Red Star actively promoted the founding, growth, and flourishing of people's power on German soil and quite decisively provided for its external protection. Our nation and peace-loving people, wherever they live and work, will never forget this.

Equally, it will remain in our minds and the minds of the future generations and will never be forgotten that our socialist reconstruction work flourished so magnificently in close, and increasingly close, cooperation with the Soviet Union. The long, firm bond of increasingly intensive work with and for one each other stretches from the delivery of the first trucks and tractors 40 years ago to the latest agreement between Mikhail Gorbachev and Erich Honecker on the further development of cooperation between our states into the next millenium. Decisive preconditions for the GDR's scientific, technical, and economic efficiency and also military defense capability have been created through joint production projects with the Soviet Union at progressively higher levels of development.

All our workers and all peoples, states, and armies through this have gained friendship and comradely coordinated cooperation. World peace and international detente has also gained through it. If there are today, under the conditions of the nuclear space age, signs of first steps toward genuine disarmament, namely the abolition of whole systems of particularly dangerous nuclear weapons, then the alliance of the socialist states and the defense capability of its allied armed forces have made a substantial contribution. This is an alliance in which our republic and our National People's Army have fulfilled their internationalist responsibility in all situations. The GDR, represented through the enthusiastic commitment of Council of State chairman Erich Honecker, has worked in the most diverse ways in the international and national framework for bringing about the double-zero solution.

Our state and our workers and soldiers will continue to make every effort to strengthen socialism, this decisive peace force, shoulder to shoulder with the class alliance and brotherhood-in-arms of the USSR and the other states of our alliance, and to promote the process of international detente, and peaceful cooperation of the peoples on all continents in creating a world without wars and bloody conflicts, a world without nuclear weapons and other mass destruction weapons. By ensuring here at the rather sensitive dividing line of the social systems and their military pacts that German workers' and peasants power cannot be economically blackmailed, politically and morally weakened, or militarily surprised through any schemes, we are helping substantially to create and maintain favorable external conditions for the advancement of socialism in all the countries of our community.

We consider close, fraternal cooperation with the party and land of Lenin in all questions of the strengthening of socialism and the safeguarding of peace to be virtually an axiom of our state policy. Let this be addressed also to those people to the West of our state frontiers who still cannot desist from speculating about discord among the socialist allies, and who despite decades of setbacks undertake repeatedly such attempts which are doomed to failure. Our party, our state and its army are guided unswervingly by this principle: the identity of the fundamental interests of all socialist states makes their close cooperation not only possible, it is and remains an essential precondition for the progress of each socialist country, for its assertion in the class struggles of our time, for the flourishing of all. That is how it was and that is how it will remain.

Just how intensively and multifariously the relations between our two armies have been developing, and how deeply the friendship with the members of the Soviet Armed Forces is rooted in our soldiers and in our people, is shown by the over 30 years of training in the National People's Army and the group of Soviet who are stationed in the GDR, the joint services and missions for the safety of our frontiers, and our sovereignty in space and territorial waters, joint efforts at key sectors of our national economy, as well as in the struggle against the adverse consequences of bad weather and natural disasters, joint military exercises and sports contests, rallies, and joyful celebrations.

At a time that is increasingly characterized by the real possibility of genuine disarmament steps and a new relaxation of international relations, we must and will continue to pay the proper attention to the requirements of our military security and, our national defense.

Unfortunately, it is not the case that with the significant disarmament results of last year those from the scene who do not approve of this direction have disappeared. On the contrary, we must expect that these forces will be doing everything possible in the coming weeks and months in order to set course for preventing, or at least delaying, further agreements.

The document on the military doctrine of the Warsaw Pact states adopted at the Berlin meeting in May 1987 stipulated that the socialist states confine themselves to what is necessary for defense, they do not regard any country or people as their enemy. All forms of national oppression of other peoples, any conquest of foreign territories, and any subjugation of other nations, is foreign to the nature of the socialist states and their armies. The protection and defense of the achievements of socialism, the safeguarding of peace—that is the characteristic of our military doctrine. This means that we shall not permit anyone to reintroduce in our countries and explotation of man by man. We are firmly resolved to help ensure that the destruction of man by man will end on our planet.

Shoulder to shoulder with the Soviet Army and the other fraternal armies, our National People's Army is ensuring that the people's children receive the same chances of education and advancement, that full employment continues to be guaranteed, that the housing question is solved as a social problem by 1990, and that workers' and peasants' power on German territory and in our socialist community remains inviolable.

It is above all the most aggressive circles of imperialism, the profit sharks and the notorious enemies of communism in the "military-industrial complex" who want to force the policy of arms build-up, who are striving for the expansion of power and for neocolonialist domination over other peoples, indeed over entire regions and continents. We must and will, therefore, do everything possible to thwart the schemes of the most aggressive imperialist forces that are directed toward the use of military force and to thwart all their activities directed against the GDR and the other socialist countries.

Erich Honecker has repeatedly pointed out that we can turn with confidence to the tasks to be solved this year for guaranteeing peace and our external security. This confidence is based on real facts, on the increased, manifold possibilities and effect of all peace forces and on the increased capabilities of the socialist armed forces, of all our protection and security organs, to detect aggressive plans in time and to frustrate them with suitable measures.

Above all, we can take it that the Soviet Union and our community of states will not stop at what has been achieved but will, with all energy and unceasingly, work to ensure that the first disarmament agreement is followed by others, to advance the emerging process of international detente and to strengthen socialism further in an all-round way as an important factor for peace.

The main directions for continuing the disarmament process are, as USSR Defense Minister Army General Yazov explained a few days ago in PRAVDA; a 50-percent reduction in strategic weapons with observance of the ABM treaty in the form signed in 1972; prevention of extension of the arms race to space; the banning and destruction of chemical weapons; the progressive elimination of nuclear weapons; a drastic reduction in conventional arms and forces on the lines of confrontation; the creation zones with a reduced military preserves; and the reduction and eventual elimination of the offensive capability of the military pacts.

The GDR fully and completely supports the Soviet Union's proposals and initiatives with its own concrete steps in the same direction. This is borne out by Erich Honecker's letter to Federal Chancellor Kohl of 16 December 1987, the withdrawal of the shorter-range missiles stationed on the territory of the GDR ahead of ratification of the coming into force of the intermediate-range treaty, and the Constitution of the National Committee to prepare an "International Meeting on Nuclear Weapon-Free Zones" in Berlin under the patronage of the chairman of the Council of State.

Obviously, not every one of these initiatives is being accepted immediately, uniformly, and unconditionally by all the NATO states who are partners in disarmament and security questions. However, we consider it as a positive sign when the rulers in those countries can no longer avoid taking a reasonable view of certain necessities, when they are increasingly compelled to react constructively to the initiatives of the peace forces and also to those proposals which not all that long ago were rejected as contentious and as partially out of court.

We consider it remarkable that the idea of a security partnership, initially taken up only by the Social Democrats, is meanwhile also accepted by politicians of the Bonn government coalition, and for these politicians to confirm publicly now that the Soviet Union and its alliance partners want peace and only peace.

We shall continue to promote forcefully all such discernment of common sense through flexibility and willingness to compromise and, in the interest of a lasting safeguarding of peace, to conclude relevant agreements while ensuring equal security for both sides, with undiminished vigilance and the requisite defense capability of socialism. The members of the Armed Forces, frontier troops and other protective and security organs of the GDR, side by side with their allies, will do everything in their power to ensure that the achievements of our working people and of our fraternal peoples continue to be reliably protected. No doubt this, in addition to the successes of the workers on the economic front as the main front, will advance us quite a bit also this year toward a secure peace.

In this certainty we greet and congratulate the glorious Soviet Armed Forces, our class brothers and comrades-in-arms, on their 70th birthday. We wish the Soviet people much success in fulfilling the resolutions of the 27th CPSU Party Congress and the objectives outlined by Mikhail Gorbachev at the festive session marking the 70th anniversary of the Great Socialist October Revolution in Moscow.

We assure you, dear Soviet comrades that just as always the Socialist German state and, its people and Army will continue, by your side and together with you, to make their steadily growing contribution so that our socialist community and peace in Europe remain securely protected.

GSFG Celebrates in Wuensdorf

LD202121 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 1719 GMT 20 Feb 88

[Text] Berlin, 20 Feb (ADN)—To mark the 70th anniversary of the Soviet Army and Navy, a ceremony was held in Wuensdorf near Berlin on Saturday by the Supreme Command of the Group of Soviet Forces in Germany. A message of congratulations, signed by Erich Honecker and Willi Stoph, from the SED Central Committee, State Council and GDR Council of Ministers was received with great applause by the participants. "The glorious Soviet Army has provided the proof in its 70 year history that it is an invincible force and impregnable shield in the protection of the achievements of socialism and in the securing of peace," it says. "It also reliably fulfills this noble mission today."

It can be noted with great satisfaction that the common peace program of the Warsaw Pact states is beginning to bear fruit. "The signing of the treaty on the complete elimination of the Soviet and U.S. intermediate- and shorter-range missiles marks the first step on the path to the creation of a nuclear free world. Through its policy of dialogue and cooperation the GDR participates actively and constructively in placing peace on a stable foundation. The agreement by the GDR and the CSSR with the USSR for the withdrawal of the intermediate-range and shorter-range nuclear missiles deployed on their territory before the treaty of 8 December 1987 comes into effect fully and completely accords with this."

In his address, Army General Snetkov [commander in chief of Soviet Forces in Germany] paid tribute to the glorious path of the Armed Forces of his country since 1918 under the leadership of the party of Lenin in the defense of the socialist homeland and in securing peace. The innumerable deeds of heroism by Soviet soldiers in the Great Patriotic War in destroying the fascist aggressors will never be forgotten. These traditions are a spur and an obligation to the members of the Soviet Army to honorably fulfill their patriotic and internationalist duty alongside the soldiers of the German workers' and peasants' state.

Foreign Affairs Committee Discusses Policy

AU191452 East Berlin NEUES DEUTSCHLAND in German 18 February p 2

[Text] Berlin (ADN)—The Foreign Affairs Committee of the People's Chamber presided over by its chairman Deputy Hermann Axen, held a session on Wednesday [17 February]. In the course of the deliberations, Dr Herbert Krolikowski, state secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and first deputy minister of foreign affairs, briefed the deputies on topical questions of foreign policy. In all its activities, he said, the GDR works on the principle that priority has to be given to securing peace. It is imperative to consistently continue to pursue the path of disarmament after the Washington agreement. The GDR's activities on an international level are manifold. This is demonstrated by the trailblazing new proposals by the general secretary of the SED Central Committee and chairman of the GDR State Council which have been submitted to the FRG Chancellor, on reducing and eliminating all tactical nuclear weapons on the territories of the GDR and the FRG, his state visit to the French Republic, and his talks with Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou.

With regard to the present stage of the work at the Vienna CSCE follow-up meeting, Dr Krolikowski stressed that the GDR is making great efforts to achieve effective agreements soon. This concerns above all the mandate for the new negotiations on conventional disarmament from the Atlantic to the Urals, which have been agreed on in principle. However, the success of the meeting can only be guaranteed when all those involved get closer to each other in the search for mutually acceptable solutions.

Budapest TV Interviews MSZMP Secretary Fejti

LD212338 Budapest Television Service in Hungarian 1800 GMT 21 Feb 88

["The Week" program; interview with Gyorgy Fejti, MSZMP Central Committee secretary by unidentified correspondent;]

[Text] [Correspondent] A few years ago we could not have imagined that one day we would be breaking taboos on the question of power. Nowadays we talk of a division of power, about the party's self-limitation. We are in a situation, and are widening the concept of democracy, in a situation which can hardly be called a boom in social or economic terms. Some might even think that this is a kind of safety valve to let off steam. Is this really the case, or can one think this way?

[Fejti] I think considerably more is being discussed than the simple use of the planned comprehensive reform of the system of political institutions for releasing social tensions, although I would add that even to achieve this would not be negligible. It is much more a question of the recognition that the competitiveness and higher efficiency of socialism as a social system can only be realized by institutional reforms. I believe that lasting economic stability, and especially economic resurgence, cannot be conceived without this, for the problems of the economy run deeper than we had thought, and presumably they are also connected with the functional disorders of the institutional system.

The Hungarian reform experiences, the sprints as well as the halts, support this unambiguously, and furthermore I believe the processes currently taking place in the USSR also point in this direction. I consider one of the most important elements of the new Soviet political thinking to be precisely the fact that they are treating the modernization of the economy, the intensification of the economy and societal democracy in close unity and harmony.

[Correspondent] To what extent is this new concept of the division of power a key aspect in this? And among who can power be shared in our country?

[Fejti] I prefer to talk about the necessity of changing the division of work. What is needed first and foremost is that clearer and less ambiguous decisionmaking and relations of responsibility should develop, and that a more rational division of labour than at present should develop in the relationship between the party, the state organs and the mass organizations, including the elimination of duplications that may arise.

This also means that the party must basically concentrate on the development and working out of the main strategic questions, and that it should create a synthesis of political processes, integrate the interests that arise in society, incorporating these into policies, and it should concentrate on the assertion of these policies through indirect means, that is by convincing people. At the same time this means that the independent decisionmaking scope of government organs, state organs and people's representation organs must by implication increase, and the mass organizations and movements must adopt a more unambiguous and characteristic shape and must be given a more serious role in the shaping of policies.

[correspondent] How will society as a whole be linked to this, because we are after all speaking about the upper echelons? Many people obviously believe, and one can support this from daily professional experience, that we, the people, the citizens, are to some extent regarded as minors who must have above them various kinds of paternalistic state and other organizations. Can this way of thinking be changed in the long term or the short term?

[Fejti] Naturally the citizen cannot be left out of this process because everything here is being done for the sake of the citizen. It is my firm conviction that the integration of the citizens' autonomy an spontaneous actions in the social renewal cannot be dispensed with. And I have experience of numerous indications of this. After all, when one talks of the preservation of towns, environmental protection, or the spread of charity movements, the fostering of cultural endowments—numerous associations, circles, clubs, movements are being created with these aims, foundations are set up by citizens, and not only by influential citizens. All these things show that the citizen is able and ready to exert influence on his immediate environment and the spontaneous initiatives and activities of citizens can in no way be cut off from these aspects.

There is no doubt that there is still far too little inclination to accept these initiatives. There is a great deal of reservation and there is an inclination to incorporate these initiatives into the existing organizations, thus taking them over in a way and institutionalizing them. I regard this tendency neither necessary nor desirable. I see no danger whatever in the proliferation or the multiplicaiton of initiatives coming from the citizens as the overwhelming majority of them fit perfectly into the values and endeavors of socialist society. I would regard as dangerous the very absence of these initiatives—apathy or indifference, of which there are, regrettably, quite a few indications.

It is true that our social structure is fundamentally a pyramid; it is built from above. However, I believe that the decentralization of decisionmaking which has begun must be pursued unequivocally. Moreover, the bringing about or combining of appraisal and control coming from above must be created from control coming from below. In addition another very significant thing would be the creation of self-government and self-administration wherever it is possible and rational, although obviously this cannot become the exclusive principle for the organization of society.

So I am of the opinion that a society must be built both from above and below if it is to be efficient.

[Correspondent] But anyone set in the old ways of thinking is justified in thinking that many interests want to gain expression and some kind of anarchy will develop. Who can bring these interests into harmony?

[Fejti] This is perhaps the most difficult problem—the integration, harmonization of interests. I also see a danger of a group interest and perhaps even more an individual interest being present more forcefully than would be desirable. One comes across numerous indications, sometimes before a television audience, that people try to disguise pronounced group interests as social interests. I am not disputing the fact tht a person who speaks this way sees things this way. But this road cannot be followed. I think we must recognize, or make people recognize, that there are limits to the assertion of interests or to assertion of justified interests. And these limits begin at the same place where the justified interests of other groups, individuals, or associations, begin.

So we must find a solution through compromise and in my opinion these compromises must be made where the conflicts of interests appear. For what one can see today is that people endeavor to transfer disputes or differences of interests to a higher level, to get them solved there, at a higher level. This is not desirable, just as it is not desirable that the party should be the arbitrator in all disputes.

Fejti Compares Present Reforms to 1968

LD200557 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 1730 GMT 19 Feb 88

[Text] Gyoergy Fejti, secretary of the MSZMP Central Committee,visited the Lorand Eotvoes University today. Miklos Tarjan reports on what Gyorgy Fejti spoke about to his hosts.

[Tarjan] Gyorgy Fejti said that today the conditions are more favorable for the reform of the system of political institutions than they were in 1968 and the years which followed it. Our present political mechanism was created at the end of the 1940's and the beginning of the 1950's and its essence has not changed in the meantime. Gyoergy Fejti summed up the goals of the reform of the system of institutions as follows: more socialism, more democracy and a more efficient economy.

What is needed for this is a clearer division of labor between the party, the state, the social organizations and the citizens. Decentralization must continue at a rate at which social control can be developed. Greater scope must be given for citizens to become organized, to form associations. The social openness of the preparation of decisions must be increased. It is necessary to create simpler legal frameworks for the recall of unsuitable leaders, deputies.

Speaking of the internal life of the party, Gyoergy Fejti said that we must develop a healthier balance between stability and dynamism. At the present time the stress is on the changes. Instead of selecting leaders, yhey should be elected. In analyzing the development of party democracy, Gyoergy Fejti said that the fate of the minority views inside the party is not solved. An approach which was developed in a specific historical period is by now hindering the development of optimal decisions and makes the correction of mistaken decisions more difficult.

Trade Union Central Council Holds Meeting

LD191756 Budapest MTI in English 1600 GMT 19 Feb 88

[Text] Budapest, Febraury 19 (MTI)—As reported, The Central Council of Hungarian Trade Unions (SZOT) held a session Friday in Budapest. Tibor Baranyai, general secretary of SZOT, said that the year started with less tension in the national economy than was expected. The material-technical conditions of production at the beginning of the year were, in many areas, better than in previous years as considerable material and component deliveries arrived in the country from import in December, 1987. The mild winter moderated energy consumption. The grossing [as received] of wages was accompanied by fewer conflicts than expected. However, the new economic regulation burdens production, management and distribution with numerous uncertainties. The changes in the price and tax system, and the uncertainties in the conclusion of foreign trade contracts hampered the preparation of annual plans by the companies, and a considerable proportion of economic units do not yet have an approved plan.

He pointed out that in the current situation the trade unions can most effectively assist advancement by improving interest protection, which will enable them to ease tensions, human and community problems. With respect to, for instance, the refloating of companies, the trade unions do not support the operation of low-efficiency units, but they mainly press for measures that improve management. In their view, reorganization or the closing down of production is a step that should be taken only as a last resort.

Discussing the new system for the payment of trade union membership fees, he said that about 90 per cent of the membership approved the new system. He added that the just demand of the membership to make public the utilization of the trade union movement's finances, should be met.

According to SZOT, the new tax system, and the efforts aimed at reducing consumption have been hard hitting for the population. The drastic increase in the prices of infant's and children's clothing elicited major dissatisfaction and incomprehension from among all the price changes. People are afraid that prices will again increase considerably.

As the economic processes in 1988 might intensify employment tensions, efforts should be made to keep them within acceptable frameworks. The reorganization procedures in progress should be completed in time and in a reassuring manner. In future it should be avoided that the unjustified protraction of the procedures, and inappropriate information cause tension among the concerned workers. It is necessary that the trade unions continuously control the situation following the grossing of wages mainly from the point of view whether they genuinely preserve on a yearly average the 1987 net earnings, alongside unchanged performance.

The Central Council of Trade Unions considers the 15 per cent increase of the consumer's price level as the upper limit. It definitely demands that the competent state and economic organs do everything possible to ensure the limit is kept. If the consumer's price standard considerably surpasses the planned degree, the trade unions demand appropriate compensation.

The SZOT session reconfirmed the standpoint of the presidium that it will support updating the retirement system if it provides a unanimous and reassuring guarantee for the tangible improvement of the situation of persons with low pensions, for safeguarding the value of pensions, and if it ensures the coordination between the retirement age and the employment policy goals. The Central Council of trade unions also considers it necessary that the conceptions related to the changes be developed in the course of extensive information and social debate.

The standpoint stresses that the trade union movement strives to renew its own work, and for the interests, opinion and will of the membership more firmly to determine its entire activity. The trade union frameworks increasingly have to be made suitable for the exploration, conflicts and representation of the differentiated interests of the membership. At the same time the public has to be better informed on how the trade unions participate in working out individual decisions. The differences in views also have to be publicly aired.

Assistance, Support for Unemployed Viewed

AU191015 Budapest MAGYAR HIRLAP in Hungarian 17 Feb 88 p 1

[Editorial signed by Ilona Kocsi: "Assistance and Support"]

[Text] Employment allowance and retraining support are no longer completely unfamiliar concepts in Hungarian society. One can also hear about public utility work, and workers who, if fate dictates, lose their jobs are entitled to an extended period of notice. Lately, anyone who starts a venture which creates jobs can ask for state support too.

But this is not the end of the new developments: Professional newspapers already contain articles about support provided for people who have lost their jobs to enable them to start anew, support which they can use for their living expenses. While, this, however, is still only a concept, it well reflects the fact that we have to combat unemployment by various means that are different from the ones applied so far.

But let us not paint the devil on the wall. There is no "real" unemployment in Hungary; at most, there is hidden unemployment within the enterprises, or temporary unemployment. This will probably not be of any comfort to those who have been out of work for longer or shorter periods of time. They numbered about 10,000 in 1987, and this number is expected to increase to at least 30,000 in 1988. Prevention is better than cure, so it would be expedient to find ways to help everyone find new jobs as quickly as possible.

This problem can somehow be solved in Budapest and in county towns, but it is more difficult to find such solutions in smaller towns or in villages. If an enterprise is liquidated here, either as a result of bankruptcy or restructuring, the released manpower will find it difficult to get another job. But considering the individual areas, this has already become a county-level problem in some areas. In Borsod County, for example, it has always been a problem to find employment for women, particularly for new high-school graduates; recently, however, men are also finding it difficult to get a job. The situation is, perhaps, even worse in Szabolcs County where industrialization has never achieved the desired level and agriculture alone was unable to absorb the available manpower. And these are only the traditionally "problematic" areas. What happens if the often mentioned restructuring is actually accelerate?! There are already initial signs, and it is no accident that the country is full of the problems facing the metallurgical workers and miners. And, in addition to these two decisive industrial sectors, other professions are facing problems too.

It is, therefore, understandable that the other labor affairs organs try to prepare for greater mobility, mobility that, if it is not directed and properly handled, or if it catches the aforementioned organs by surprise, can lead to much more serious consequences. And we are talking here about thousands of people....

Varkonyi Leaves on Asia-Pacific Tour

LD211550 Budapest MTI in English 1531 GMT 21 FEB 88

[Text] Budapest, February 21 (MTI)—On Sunday Peter Varkonyi, Hungarian minister of foreign affairs, left on an official visit to Asia and the Pacific region. He is to visit the Republic of Singapore, the Republic of Indonesia, the Republic of India, the Kingdom of Thailand, Australia and New Zealand.

Karpati, Military Delegation Leave for Moscow
LD211701 Budapest MTI in English
1639 GMT 21 Feb 88

[Text] Budapest, February 21 (MTI)—Headed by Colonel-General Ferenc Karpati, Hungarian minister of defence, a military delegation left for Moscow to attend the celebrations on the 70th anniversary of the Soviet Army and Naval Fleet on the invitation of Army General Dmitriy Yazov, Soviet minister of defence.

Officials Attend Soviet Southern Army Fete
LD202154 Budapest MTI in English
2041 GMT 20 Feb 88

[Text] Budapest, February 20 (MTI)—On Saturday a celebration was held at the headquarters of the Soviet southern army group temporarily stationed in Hungary on the 70th anniversary of the Soviet Army and Naval Fleet. Colonel-General Aleksey Demidov, commander of the Army Group, discussed the importance of the anniversary, and Gyorgy Fejti, secretary of the Central Committee of the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party, greeted the soldiers of Soviet Army and the Naval Fleet.

The celebration was attended by Peter Medgyessy, deputy prime minister, Colonel-General Ferenc Karpati, minister of defence, Sandor Borbely, national commander of the workers' militia, Lieutenant General Jeno Foldesi, under-secretary of state at the ministry of the interior, Army General Fedot Krivda, representative in Hungary of the commander-in-chief of the Warsaw Treaty United Armed Forces, and representatives of Hungarian Party, state and public life and members of the military council of the defence ministry.

Party Delegation Meets Poland's Czyrek
LD192313 Budapest MTI in English
1738 GMT 19 Feb 88

[Text] Budapest, February 19 (MTI)—A party workers' delegation led by Katalin Radics, head of the Scientific, Educational and Cultural Department at the HSWP CC, visited Poland from February 16 to 19 at the invitation of the PUWP CC. Katalin Radics held talks with Tadeusz Sawic, head of the Cultural Department at the PUWP CC, and Boguslaw Kedzia, head of the CC's Department for Science, Education and Technical Development.

The Hungarian party workers' delegation met Jozef Czyrek, member of the PUWP Political Committee and secretary of the Central Committee.

GDR's Dohlus Leaves Budapest 19 Feb
LD200917 Budapest MTI in English
1915 GMT 19 Feb 88

[Text] Budapest, February 19 (MTI)—The delegation of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany (SUPG), headed by Horst Dohlus, member of the Political Committee and secretary of the Central Committee, left Budapest on Friday. During the two-day visit the delegation held talks at the HSWP Central Committee and the Budapest Party Committee.

At the Ferihegy Airport the delegation was seen off by Janos Lukacs, secretary of the HSWP CC. Present at the airport was Karl-Heinz Lugenheim, ambassador of the German Democratic Republic to Hungary.

Romanians Preparing for Scheduled Congress
LD191824 Budapest MTI in English 1622 GMT
19 Feb 88

[Text] Budapest, February 19 (MTI)—The National Board of the Democratic Federation of Romanians in Hungary held a session Friday in Gyula. It was stated that one of the main tasks of the federation is preparation of the 7th congress scheduled to be held at the end of the year, and to organize the election of delegates to the congress. It is expected that the rallies, organized jointly with the People's Front, will provide an opportunity for the minority population to voice its sincere views on the local implementation of the Hungarian minority policy, and on the territorial and national problems. Members of the board stated that the rallies to elect delegates serve the friendship and fraternal cooperation of the two peoples.

Budapest Hosts Economic Conference
AU191142 Budapest NEPSZABADSAG in Hungarian
17 Feb 88 p 5

[Report by Correspondent Andras Szigethy: "The Beginning of A New Era in the World Economy Requires New Political Thinking—International Conference in Budapest"]

[Text] A 2-day conference began in Budapest on 16 February with the participation of domestic and foreign experts and scientists from socialist, developing, and developed countries, and organized by the World Economy Research Institute of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences on the occasion of the 15th anniversary of its founding.

In his opening speech, Academician Mihaly Simai, director of the Institute, stressed that it is necessary for the researchers to thoroughly analyze the world economic situation, which is full of serious contradictions, and even if it is impossible to supply ready-made recipes for solving the problems, the researchers should seek an answer to the question of how to reform the system of relations between governments, international organs, and all the other factors that play a decisive role in influencing world economic processes, and to reform their relations in such a way that they contribute to solving existing problems.

Kalman Kulcsar, deputy general secretary of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, greeted the conference on behalf of the Presidium of the Academy. He said, among other things, that the Hungarian society has been increasingly open to the world in the last 15 years, not only in the economic sense but also in the cultural and political sense.

In his address, Academician Jozsef Bognar, founder of the Institute and general director of the Economic Research Institute of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, analyzed the experiences of the last quarter of a century and the world economic and social trends. He said that we are increasingly regarding it as a fundamental truth that global policy and the world economic situation are undergoing fundamental changes, but we regard as less fundamental the fact that mankind's scientific and economic thinking must also change. Speaking about the economic sciences, Jozsef Bognar said that the changes that have taken place in many scientific branches fundamentally question the logic followed by the classics of economic sciences concerning the issues of balance, usefulness, and management.

Speaking about the activity of the World Economy Research Institute, Jozsef Bognar reminded his audience of the period when researchers approached global economic issues with "classical" methods. Awareness of the development and growth problems and the international problems facing the third world has broadened the horizons of economic sciences. We succeeded in placing the internal problems of the Hungarian economy in a wider perspective and analyze these problems in the process of interdependence between domestic and foreign economic factors. The scientists also thoroughly analyzed the issues of trade between the domestic and the socialist economies and this analysis became one of the catalysts of the economic reform.

Speaking about the current situation, Jozsef Bognar said that the current beginning of a new era in the world economy is the greatest event in economic history since the industrial revolution, and all the phenomena and consequences of this new economic era have not yet developed fully to this day. Neither the West nor the East recognized the real weight and importance of the new era at but, since the middle of the current decade, this new economic era has been having a considerable effect on global politics, and has considerably modified the dynamics of global politics. Among the factors and consequences of the new economic era, Jozsef Bognar stressed the increasingly serious environmental damage, the change in the current system of world economic relations and of the related production and trade contacts, the disintegration of the international financial system, the decrease in the importance of natural resources, the sharp increase in the value of qualified work, and the unparalleled acceleration of the mass media revolution.

Jozsef Bognar called it decisive that the political security factors have also changed in this period of great changes.

Speaking about relations between the EEC and CEMA, Jozsef Bognar expressed his hope that cooperation within Europe could lead to the emergence of a new international economic policy order.

In his address, Louis Emmerij, chairman of the Development Center of the OECD, the economic organization that comprises the developed capitalist countries, analyzed the results and problems of Western economies. He also mentioned the fact that, irrespective of social order, problems appear in different parts of the world, problems that have similar roots and require similar solutions.

In his address, Academician Oleg Bogomolov, director of the Economics of the World Socialist System Institute of the USSR Academy of Sciences, spoke, among other things, about the importance of the new Soviet foreign economic policy and stressed that not only the socialist countries but also the entire world is interested in the success of socialist reform processes. Oleg Bogomolov stressed the interdependence between West and East and that it is an important condition for the activity of the entire world economy to make sure that the economic conditions of the socialist countries do not narrow down and that socialist management receives new impetus.

Considers Socialist Reform

LD211208 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 0905 GMT 21 Feb 88

[from the "7 Days of Five Continents" program]

[Text] The international conference in Budapest was labeled as world economy, but nevertheless most of the talk was about Hungary. Gabor Izbeki comments.

[Izbeki] The laws of the world economy do not take into account the complaints of those lagging behind. This must happen the other way round. Those lagging behind must take note of the world. For this, openness, flexibility, and a practical economic policy free of prejudice are required. This is how the conclusion of the 2-day international conference can be briefly summarized.

In the debate it was principally the experiences of the Hungarian and Soviet reform which were set against the views of the West European economists, for there were no representatives from the other socialist countries.

The Soviet researchers, however, bared the situation of their country very honestly to the listeners. Academician Oleg Bogomolov, head of the research department in Moscow which deals with the socialist countries, said plainly that if the reform does not succeed, or if East Europe should revert to the old model of development, then this would have catastrophic consequences. The socialist coutries would be completely left behind in the economic competition. In his opinion, since development can be reached only with the perfection of goods and money relations, the GDR and Romania too can have no other choice than to follow sooner or later the reformist coutries.

When interviewed, Bogomolov said that there is an economic crisis in Romania, despite the published plans and the statistical data reflecting successes.

It also transpired from the debate that the socialist countries which are less heavily in debt, or which have a lower rate of inflation, are no better off than, for example, Poland or Hungary. It is only that they still have reserves and external sources for traditional economic development. In the social sphere, crisis signs which would have questioned the correctness of the traditional way, have not yet appeared.

As regards the world economy, the West European and Hungarian researchers agreed that fundamentally it is correct to assess the events of the past 15 years as a change in era. In this time the world markets finally assumed a world existence which, however, does not mean that this is directed by one, sole, large power center. The development of the world economy remains cyclical, but in every new cycle a different factor causes a crisis, the conditions of development are different, and growth and development must be assessed differently too.

Friendship Delegation Returns From USSR

LD191618 Budapest MTI in English
1506 GMT 19 Feb 88

[Text] Budapest, February 19 (MTI)—A delegation of the Hungarian-Soviet Friendship Society, led by General Secretary Gyula Biro, returned to Budapest from Moscow Friday. The delegation visited the Soviet capital on the invitation of its fraternal organization, the Soviet-Hungarian Friendship Society. In Moscow, the delegation attended the ceremonies held on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the signing of the Hungarian-Soviet Friendship, Cooperation and Mutual Assistance Treaty, and the 30th anniversary of the founding of the Soviet-Hungarian Friendship Society. Gyula Biro and the members of the delegation met with leaders and activists of the fraternal organization and of the federation of Soviet friendship societies, and held talks on further opportunities to intensify friendly relations.

Leaders Public Appearances 11-17 February

AU211456 [Editorial Report] Budapest NEPSZABADSAG in Hungarian from 12 to 18 February and MAGYAR HIRLAP of 13 February report on the public appearances of the following leaders between 11 and 17 February (source, date, and page number of each report is given in parentheses):

Ferenc Havasi, member of the MSZMP Politburo, and Istvan Horvath, minister of interior, attended the ceremony awarding the Pro Urbe Budapest prizes at the Budapest Municipality headquarters on 12 February. (NEPSZABADSAG, 13 Feb, p 6)

Peter Medgyessy, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers, gave a lecture at the Political Academy of the MSZMP Central Committee on 17 February. (NEPSZABADSAG, 18 Feb, p 8)

Judit Csehak, member of the MSZMP Politburo and minister of social affairs and health, attended an international conference on family planning held at the National Public Health Institute on 12 February. (MAGYAR HIRLAP, 13 Feb, p 4)

Gyorgy Aczel, member of the MSZMP Politburo, paid a 2-day visit to Hajdu-Bihar County on 10-11 February. (NEPSZABADSAG, 12 Feb, p 5)

Csaba Hamori, member of the MSZMP Poliburo and first secretary of KISZ, visited Budapest's 18th district on 16 February. (NEPSZABADSAG, 17 Feb, p 5)

Briefs

Chemical Industry Results

The development of the chemical industry in 1987 considerably exceeded the planned development and the average development of the industry as a whole. As compared to the stipulated 2.2 percent, production increased by 6.2 percent. From the point of view of the market, this increase was domestically supported by a lively population demand. In addition to this, the sector's exports accounted in convertible currency also increased dynamically by 17 percent; they exceeded the 1987 exports by $134 million, and chemical industry exports on the whole amounted to $923.5 million. Thus the chemical industry was the second largest Hungarian exporter to capitalist markets. [Excerpt] [*Budapest NEPSZAVA in Hungarian 17 Feb p 1 AU*]

Health Protection Council

Budapest,February 19 (MTI)—The National Council for Health Protection, operating under the guidance of the Council of Ministers, held its founding session in the Parliament Building on Friday with Judit Csehak, minister of social-Welfare and health, in the chair. The council is to coordinate the tasks related to the long-term government programme for health protection. To finance the council's work, a special fund for health protection was set up that will draw resources from the central budget, contributions by state and social organs, payments of economic organizations and donations by individuals. At present 90 million forints are available. [Text] [*Budapest MTI in English 1734 GMT 19 Feb 88 LD*]

Solidarity Leaders Arrested, Meetings Held

LD201730 Hamburg DPA in German
1707 GMT 20 Feb 88

[Text] Warsaw (DPA)—Several meetings of leaders of the banned Solidarity trade union took place in Gdansk today, although a number of Solidarity leaders were arrested on their way there. Solidarity leader Lech Walesa announced by telephone from Gdansk that several working groups and the "executive committee" met. "We always find a way out," Walesa said. The resolutions agreed on are to be published later.

On the way to the meetings the security authorities arrested the Warsaw leader of Solidarity, Zbigniew Bujak; Solidarity spokesman Janusz Onyszkiewicz; and Bogdan Lis. Onyszkiewicz and Lis were taken from Walesa's car. Walesa was allowed to drive on. Arrests were also reported in Wroclaw, Cracow, and Lublin. The Solidarity advisor Jacek Kuron was stopped at Gdansk station for an identity check but then released.

Walesa Interviewed on Arrests

AU201443 Paris AFP in English
1426 GMT 20 Feb 88

[Text] Warsaw, Feb 20 (AFP)—Several leaders of the outlawed trade union Solidarity were arrested Saturday, union leader Lech Walesa said, as police clamped down on dissidents throughout Poland.

Mr. Walesa, reached by telephone, said former union leader Zbigniew Bujak and Jacek Kuron, formerly a key Solidarity adviser, were arrested at the Gdansk railway station as they arrived in the northern port city for a Solidarity executive meeting.

Observers said it was the largest police operation against dissidents since Poland amnestied political prisoners in 1986.

Bogdan Lis, who signed the Gdansk agreements that give birth to Solidarity in 1980, and Solidarity spokesman Janusz Onyszkiewicz were arrested as Mr. Walesa was driving them to the meeting, he added.

Mr. Walesa said he had not been detained but many other less well-known unionists had been arrested.

Reliable sources said another Solidarity leader, Bogdan Jurczak, was arrested Friday at his home in the southern city of Krakow, while other Solidarity members were arrested in Lublin, south-eastern Poland, and Rzeszow, in the south-west.

On Friday, Lublin police banned several dissidents from attending a mass to be celebrated Sunday in Rzeszow by Ignacy Tokarczuk, a bishop known for his opposition sympathies.

"The police action is aimed at paralyzing our activity," Mr. Walesa said, adding that "someone who is afraid will do anything" and is prone to "make blunders."

The Solidarity executive meeting was to have discussed reactions to massive price increases introduced in Poland at the beginning of the month, Mr. Walesa said.

The prices of basic foodstuffs and tobacco soared 40 per cent, while public transport, postal and telephone charges rose by 50 per cent, triggering protests in several Polish cities.

Walesa Attacks Authorities

AU202057 Paris AFP in English
2046 GMT 20 Feb 88

[Text] Warsaw, Feb 20 (AFP)—Lech Walesa, leader of the banned Solidarity union, on Saturday attacked Polish authorities as feeble and "destructive" after they arrested key union officials ahead of a planned Solidarity caucus.

"This system can't do anything other than arrest people", Mr. Walesa told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE.

He was speaking in the Baltic city of Gdansk after the arrest of several members of the National Executive Commission (KKW) of Solidarity, which was due to meet this weekend under his chairmanship.

"It is so weak that it is afraid of everything and is capable only of destructive behaviour", the Nobel peace prize-winner said.

"The authorities have to realise that they will not stop us, that we will hold our meeting anyway and that their destructive behaviour will not go on indefinitelty", he added.

Several KKW leaders were able to meet late Saturday, Mr. Walesa noted. They adopted various measures which will be announced after those who were arrested have been released, he said.

The majority of KKW members were arrested on Friday and Saturday in several Polish cities as they were preparing to travel to Gdansk for the meeting.

Leaders' Release Reported

LD211646 Hamburg DPA in German
1609 GMT 21 Feb 88

[Excerpt] Warsaw (DPA)—The Polish security authorities have today begun to release the eight leaders of the banned Solidarity trade union who were arrested yesterday an on Friday in various cities in Poland. By late afternoon four releases had been confirmed in Warsaw. These included Warsaw Solidarity leader Zbigniew Bujak and spokesman for the organization Janusz Onyszkiewicz. [passage omitted].

AFP Reports Members' Release

AU212130 Paris AFP in English
2050 GMT 21 Feb 88

[Text] Warsaw, Feb 21 (AFP)—Seven leading members of the banned trade union Solidarity who were arrested Friday and Saturday in various Polish cities were released late Sunday, opposition sources said here.

The seven, members of the trade union's executive committee (KKW), were arrested as they were preparing to travel to Gdansk to attend a meeting under the chairmanship of former Solidarity leader Lech Walesa.

According to Jacek Kuron, a leading member of the former Social Self-Defence Committee (KOR), police told the arrested men that they had detained them in order to prevent them attending the meeting.

The 10-strong committee was scheduled to debate the current discontent in Poland following subtantial price rises—averaging 40 per cent—introduced at the beginning of the month.

Mr. Walesa issued a withering attack on the Polish authorities Saturday following the arrests, calling them feeble and "capable only of destructive behaviour".

Meanwhile Polish police on Sunday arrested eight activists of Rural Solidarity, the agricultural branch of the banned trade union, at Rzeszow, southeast Poland, during a demonstration, reliable sources said.

The activists were among 500 demonstrators calling for the restoration of the Rural Solidarity which, prior to the imposition of martial law in December 1981, claimed more than two million members.

Among those arrested was former Rural Solidarity leader Jan Rozek.

The demonstrators dispersed peacefully after police set up a roadblock in the centre of the town.

Also Sunday, 15 militants of the ecology movement Liberty and Peace (WiP) demonstrated at the Baltic resort of Sopot, handing out leaflets to protest against pollution of the Gulf of Gdansk on which it is located.

Several hundred residents of the town joined the demonstrators to prevent a group of policemen from arresting them, opposition sources here said.

8 Arrested Leaders Freed

LD220942 Hamburg DPA in German
0921 GMT 22 Feb 88

[Text] Warsaw (DPA)—Police arrested eight members of the banned "Land Solidarity" farmers trade union in the southeast Polish town of Rzeszow on Sunday who after a church service had attended a demonstration calling for the legalization of the organization. The church service was attended by several members of the former leadership of land Solidarity now beset by infighting.

The eight leaders of the workers' Solidarity arrested on Friday and Saturday were all set free again on Monday. They were detained by police in various parts of Poland in order to prevent a conference of Solidarity leadership bodies convened in Gdansk by the workers' leader Lech Walesa.

Police Warn of Further Arrests

AU221141 Paris AFP in English
1053 GMT 22 Feb 88

[Text] Warsaw, Feb 22 (AFP)—Polish authorities have warned leaders of the banned trade union Solidarity that they would be arrested each time they attempted to meet, a member of the union's executive committee (KKW) said here Monday.

Jacek Kuron added that the seven KKW members who were arrested Friday and Saturday in various Polish cities and released late Sunday, had been told by police not to hold any meetings.

However former Solidarity leader Lech Walesa denounced the arrests and told AFP Monday that "nothing will stop the KKW from meeting."

The seven were arrested as they were preparing to travel to Gdansk to attend a meeting under the chairmanship of Mr. Walesa.

According to Mr. Kuron, a leading member of the former Social Self-Defence Committee (KOR), police told the arrested men that they had detained them in order to prevent them attending the meeting.

The 10-strong committee was scheduled to debate discontent in Poland following subtantial price rises—averaging 40 per cent—introduced at the beginning of the month.

Dissident sources named the seven Monday as former trade union leader Zbigniew Bujak, Bogdan Lis, co-signer of the 1980 Gdansk accords, Wladyslaw Frasyniuk, Stefan Jurczak, Stanislaw Weglarz, Antoni Tokarczuk and Antoni Stawikowski.

Solidarity spokesman Janusz Onyszkiewicz was also detained Saturday as he was driving with Mr. Walesa through the northern port city of Gdansk, the sources added. He was released Sunday.

Mr. Tokarczuk's arrest at the Bydgoszcz, western Poland, railway station came after he had attempted to escape by jumping into a train heading for Gdansk, the sources said.

Plainclothes police then ordered the train stopped and arrested him, they added.

Mr. Walesa issued a withering attack on the Polish authorities Saturday following the arrests, calling them feeble and "capable only of destructive behaviour".

Meanwhile Polish police on Sunday arrested eight activists of Rural Solidarity, the agricultural branch of the banned trade union, at Rzeszow, southeast Poland, during a demonstration, reliable sources said.

The activists were among 500 demonstrators calling for the restoration of Rural Solidarity which, prior to the imposition of martial law in December 1981, claimed more than two million members.

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Also Sunday, 15 militants of the ecology movement Liberty and Peace (WiP) demonstrated at the Baltic resort of Sopot, handing out leaflets to protest against pollution of the Gulf of Gdansk on which it is located.

Several hundred residents of the town joined the demonstrators to prevent a group of policemen from arresting them, opposition sources here said.

Jaruzelski Addresses Self-Management Group

LD201534 Warsaw PAP in English
1459 GMT 20 Feb 88

[Text] Warsaw, Feb. 20—Representatives of workers' self-managements started a meeting here today devoted to the state and prospects for the development of the self-managements, including the role and place of workers' councils in the second stage of the economic reform. The meeting is attended by Wojciech Jaruzelski and Zbigniew Messner.

Addressing the meeting, Deputy Prime Minister Zbigniew Szalajda said that the government once again confirms its full interest in cooperation with self-managements. The government has no fears and doubts as to the necessity to expand crews' self-management. Workers' councils are already functioning in 95 per cent of all enterprises. This rate should constantly grow. The government is of the opinion that the self-management must also function in any newly set-up economic organization, such as companies, concerns, and the like.

In the discussion, representatives of self-managements of respective enterprises stressed that a climate has been already created which fully stimulates the functioning of self-managements. We exert influence, speakers said, on what is going on in enterprises. However, there are slight or practically no possibilities to influence the general economic policy.

Taking the floor during the discussion, Wojciech Jaruzelski said that the party's and state's top leadership attaches great importance to the role of self-managements.

Once again I want to stress and confirm the consistency of the party's attitude towards the activities of self-management. This is not a transitory phenomenon, it came out of doctrinal reasons. This is an expression of the fundamental principle of crews' participation in the comanagement of enterprises, said the speaker.

Views expressed during the discussion, showed that there are still many weak points in the functioning of the self-management. [words indistinct] managements of enterprises, as well as all social and political forces functioning there. In this way we will have an arrangement which will function in tune with the interests of crews and the state.

Wojciech Jaruzelski also stressed that the threshold of the second stage of the economic reform has been crossed, which features, among other things, increase of independence and the role of self-management for which this phase of the reform is a vital test and chance.

Proposal for Election Law Changes Issued

26000150 Warsaw RZECZPOSPOLITA in Polish
31 Dec 87-3 Jan 88 pp 1,2

["Session of the Council of State: Draft Amendments of Regulations Governing Elections to People's Councils, Submitted for Public Discussion"—PAP report;passages in boldface as published]

[Text] (C) **On 30 December a session of the Council of State was held in the Belvedere.**

Proposed amendments of regulations governing elections to people's councils were considered and approved.

The Council of State resolved to present the proposals for public discussion.

Proposed Amendments of Regulations Governing Elections to People's Councils

Implementing the will of a majority of citizens as expressed in the national referendum, in which they voted and supported the continuing democratization of sociopolitical life, the Council of State presents below draft amendments of the laws governing elections to people's councils.

The purpose of the directions of changes and new solutions contained in the proposed amendments of regulations governing elections to people's councils is to further democratize the system of elections to local bodies of state administration. The proposed solutions were inspired by the postulates for changing electoral laws contained in the program planks of the 10th Congress of the Polish United Workers Party and in the program of the Second Congress of the Patriotic Movement for National Rebirth. These proposals were drafted with allowance for the recommendations ensuing from the nationwide discussion of the directions of democratization of electoral laws, conducted prior to the referendum, in connection with the second question asked in the referendum, as well as from the experience gained from the 1984 elections to people's councils and the 1985 elections to the Sejm.

Amending the electoral laws to meet the social expectations voiced by many organizations and constituencies should be an important factor in strengthening people's councils and promoting the civic activism of both councilmen and voters. Such activism is especially desirable in view of the envisaged expansion of the competences and economic-financial autonomy of people's councils, and it also is a major prerequisite for an effective application of the economic reform and an effective contribution of people's councils to improving the living conditions of the urban and rural population.

In formulating the presented proposals the guiding idea was to provide the conditions and incentives for a more active participation by citizens in the entire electoral process, beginning with the identification of candidates and ending with the recall of councilmen and the complementation of membership of the councils.

The presented proposals for amendments also are intended to stress the self-government and local nature of elections to people's councils and enhance the authority of these councils by strengthening the bonds between councilmen and citizens.

The presented concept of amendments to regulations governing elections to people's councils concerns primarily the following aspects of electoral law:

— setting the date of elections;

— preparing voter lists;

— appointing electoral commissions and collegiums;

— nominating and subjecting to public scrutiny candidates for councilmen;

— preparing electoral slates;

— voting procedure and determination of results (inclusive of the abolition of the decreed voter preferences [abolition of the validity of blank ballots]);

— recall of councilmen by voters and replacement of councilmen in the period until next elections.

The main directions of the proposals for revising electoral law as presented in the theses below are preceded in each chapter by a preamble summing up the nature of the changes. In several instances different variants of proposed solutions are presented one after another. This does not preclude the consideration of other alternative solutions that may be suggested by the readers, and it rather is intended as a stimulus for volunteering opinions and pondering the democratization of electoral law.

I. [Roman One] Election Date

It is proposed that elections be scheduled earlier in order to avoid any prolonged hiatus in the activities of people's councils during the period between the expiration of the old term of office and the commencement of a new one. This solution should help intensify the work of people's councils. In practice, it will serve to establish fixed dates for the termination and commencement of the terms of office of people's councils.

["Thesis"] 1. The Council of State schedules the elections not later than 3 months prior to the expiration of the term of office, with election day to be other than a legal work day and to be scheduled not earlier than one month prior to the expiration date of the term of office and not later than within a month following that expiration date. The scheduling of elections prior to the said expiration date shall not result in shortening the term of office, and the newly elected people's councils shall commence their term of office on the day following said expiration date.

II. [Roman Two] Voter Lists

It is proposed that, in view of the self-government and local nature of elections to people's councils, the persons eligible for voting should be those domiciled (registered as permanent residents) in the administrative district of the council as well as: (variant 1) persons sojourning in the area as part of their military service; (variant 2) and, in addition, persons temporarily resident in the area owing to the jobs they hold or as students (Thesis 2).

Thesis 3 proposes for variant II refraining from public posting of voter lists and instead mailing notices to voters that they have been placed on such lists.

It is proposed that voters not named on the list be allowed to vote if their identity cards show that they are registered as permanent residents in the area in which they desire to vote (Thesis 4).

["Thesis"] 2. Variant 1. Voter lists name voters registered as permanent residents in the gmina, city, or borough, as well as persons temporarily resident in the area as part of their military service.

Variant 2. Voter lists name voters registered as permanent residents in the gmina, city, or borough, as well as persons temporarily resident in the area as part of their military service, and also persons registered as temporary residents in connection with their jobs or studies, if such persons submit to tenant registry offices notices of intent to vote in the areas of their temporary domicile.

["Thesis"] 3. Variant 1. Independently of the composition of voter lists, action may be taken to make it easier for voters to check the correctness of their placement on lists. (This means that, depending on the local conditions, voters may be, for example, provided information by telephone or otherwise notified that they are placed on the list.)

Variant 2. Voter lists shall not be posted publicly on the premises of the district electoral commissions. The proper tenant registry offices shall notify voters in writing of their placement on the list and handle any related claims.

["Thesis"] 4. A voter whose name is missing from the voter list shall be added to the list on election day and permitted to vote if his identity card shows that he is registered as permanent resident in the election district in which he desires to vote (this does not apply to instances of deletion from the list for reasons specified in the electoral law).

III. [Roman Three] Appointing of Electoral Commissions and Collegiums

It is proposed that the representativeness and public nature of the electoral commissions and collegiums be enhanced by broadening the range of the organizations legally represented in them.

To take the regulations governing elections to the Sejm as an example, the proportions in which the representatives of the political parties, the PRON [Patriotic Movement for National Rebirth], and social and professional organizations are to be represented in the collegiums should be legally specified (Theses 6, 7, 8). It is proposed that, in addition to members of electoral commissions as has been the practice till now, members of electoral collegiums should be made ineligible as candidates for people's councils (Thesis 9).

["Thesis"] 5. The Council of State appoints the State Electoral Commission. The presidiums of voivodship people's councils appoint voivodship electoral commissions. The presidiums of basic-level people's councils appoint the municipal, borough, city-gmina, and gmina electoral commissions from among voters proposed by the proper elements of the PRON, political organizations, social organizations, and trade unions. The presidiums of the basic-level people's councils appoint district electoral commissions from among voters.

["Thesis"] 6. The National Electoral Collegium is constituted by representatives of the PRON National Council and the leadership of the PZPR, the ZSL [United Peasant Party], the SD [Democratic Party], the PAX Association, the Christian Social Association, and the Polish Catholic-Social Union, who together account for three-fifths of the Collegium's membership, with the remaining two-fifths consisting of representatives of (delegates from) the leadership of national or federated trade unions, socio-occupational organizations of farmers, war veteran organizations, and women's unions as well as socialist youth unions.

The National Electoral Collegium is presided over by a representative of the PRON National Council.

["Thesis"] 7. The formation of vovivodship electoral collegiums will follow principles analogous to those underlying the formation of the National Electoral Collegium (representatives or delegates of the voivodship leadership of the PRON and political, social, and trade-union organizations).

The voivodship electoral collegiums will be presided over by representatives of the PRON voivodship councils.

["Thesis"] 8. The municipal, borough, town, city-gmina, and gmina electoral collegiums shall include, in proportions specified in Thesis 6, representatives (delegates) of the leadership of local PRON, political, social, and trade-union organizations referred to in Thesis 6. Such basic-level collegiums shall be presided over by the representative of the local (municipal, borough, city-gmina, or gmina) PRON council.

["Thesis"] 9. Members of electoral commissions and collegiums have to terminate their membership therein if they are nominated as candidates for councilmen.

IV. [Roman Four] Nomination and Public Scrutiny of Candidates for Councilmen

It is proposed that the right to nominate candidates for councilmen be also granted to citizens' conventions under the chairmen of voivodship people's councils (Thesis 10).

It is proposed that the political, social, and trade-union organizations authorized to nominate candidates for councilmen decide upon the procedure whereby they internally nominate such candidates and subject them to public scrutiny (Thesis 11). This should be linked to the drafting by these organizations of bylaws establishing a democratic procedure for the nomination or subjection to public scrutiny of candidates who will thereupon be proposed to the collegiums as candidates for councilmen. The electoral collegiums shall thereupon draw up lists of candidates from among such nominees and submit them for public scrutiny at pre-election meetings. It is assumed that electoral collegiums shall draw up slates of candidates only after such scrutiny, and that a prerequisite for placing a candidate's name on the slate is the absence of justified complaints against him by participants at the pre-election meeting (Thesis 12).

["Thesis"] 10. The right to nominate candidates for councilmen belongs to political, social, and trade-union organizations, PRON voivodship councils, citizens' conventions under the chairmen of voivodship people's councils, and urban and rural self-governments.

["Thesis"] 11. The organizations authorized to nominate candidates for councilmen may, before availing themselves of this right, establish internal procedures for nominating such persons and subjecting them to public scrutiny.

["Thesis"] 12. Electoral collegium shall draw up lists of candidates for each electoral district from among persons nominated by authorized organizations, citizens' conventions under the chairman of the voivodship council, and urban and rural self-government; voivodship electoral collegiums shall proceed analogously with respect to voivodship lists. The candidacies listed shall be subjected to public scrutiny at pre-election meetings, whereupon the electoral collegium shall determine the slate of candidates, which may contain only the names of those candidates against whom no justified reservations were voiced at pre-election meetings. The collegiums shall notify the nominating organizations of their decision to place or not to place the names of candidates on the slates.

V. [Roman Five] Determining the Slates of Candidates

It is proposed that alphabetical slates of candidates for every mandate in a district be introduced, upon adhering to the principle that two candidates should compete for each mandate (Thesis 15).

It is similarly proposed that the names of candidates on voivodship slates be arranged in the alphabetical order. Such alphabetical ordering of names, combined with the abolition of the validity of blank ballots (Thesis 18) will encourage a committed and activist attitude of voters in the sense that they will form their own opinions about candidates and express it by voting. This also should promote the activism of candidates in their competition for votes. Such competition is to be expected between two candidates competing for the same office. An intended consequence of the changes in the electoral law will be the strengthening of bonds between councilmen and voters.

It is also proposed, by way of an alternative, that the number of councilmen on the voivodship slate be reduced (Thesis 13), and also that the number of candidates on the voivodship slate should correspond to the number of mandates (Thesis 14).

["Thesis"] 13. Variant 1. Ten percent of the membership of voivodship people's councils are elected from the voivodship electoral slate (under the 1984 law, 15 percent are elected).

Variant 2. Not more than 15 percent of the membership of voivodship people's councils are elected from the voivodship electoral slate. The specific percentage shall be determined by the Council of State.

["Thesis"] 14. Candidates for councilmen shall be named on the voivodship electoral slate in alphabetical order; said slate shall name as many candidates as there are mandates.

["Thesis"] 15. District electoral slates (elections to voivodship and basic-level people's councils) shall be divided into mandates:

Variant 1. Appended to every discrete mandate are the names of two candidates in alphabetical order.

Variant 2. Appended to every discrete mandate are the names of two candidates in the sequence determined by the electoral collegium.

VI. [Roman Six] Voting Procedure and Determination of Results

It is assumed that elections shall attract voter interest in the sense that the election of candidates from a district list will consist in identifying the preferred candidate by striking out the name of the competing candidate, for every office [mandate] specified. It is proposed that the practice of crediting the vote to the first of the two candidates named for an office regardless of whether the name of the other candidate is or is not struck over, be abolished (Thesis 18). Consequently, when neither name is struck out, neither candidate is to be credited with the vote. It is proposed that a prerequisite for electing a councilman from the district slate be that he receive a majority of the valid votes, and in the case of the voivodship slate, that he receive more than one-half of the valid votes (Theses 20 and 21).

["Thesis"] 16. Variant 1. The concerned electoral collegiums will designate representatives from among persons nominated by the local PRON leadership, who shall have the right to be present on polling premises on election day and to assist in the work of the (district, basic-level, and voivodship) electoral commissions.

Variant 2. Such representatives are not designated.

["Thesis"] 17. Upon receiving his ballot, the voter proceeds to a screened area in order to fill it out.

["Thesis"] 18. When electing candidates from district electoral slates, the voter may vote for as many candidates as are to be elected in that district according to the number of mandates specified on the ballot. The voter indicates his preference for a candidate by not striking out his name on the ballot. When the names of both candidates for a mandate or mandates are not struck out, the vote is invalid. (The number of persons whose votes are thus invalid with respect to every mandate is specified in the official vote-counts.)

["Thesis"] 19. When voting for candidates from the voivodship electoral slate the voter shows his preference by not striking out the names of particular candidates.

["Thesis"] 20. Candidates for councilmen in any particular election district are considered as elected if they receive a majority of valid votes for the mandate for which they are nominated.

["Thesis"] 21. Candidates for councilmen named on the voivodship electoral slate are considered as elected if they receive more than one-half of the valid votes.

["Thesis"] 22. In the event that both candidates (on district slates) receive the same number of votes, new elections are to be scheduled on a day other than a work day within no later than 3 weeks following the original elections.

VII. [Roman Seven] Complementing the Membership of Councils

It is proposed that legal solutions for augmenting the responsibility felt by councilmen toward voters be introduced. This would occur through a simplification of the procedure for the recall of councilmen by voters (Thesis 24) and its extension to councilmen elected from voivodship slates.

Variant 1 of Thesis 26 proposes adopting the principle that complementing the membership of councils prior to the ending of their terms of office can be done only by means of new elections. A possible alternate solution is the assumption of the vacated office by the second candidate who had competed for that office in the original elections, provided that in those elections he had gained at least one-half of the votes gained by the originally elected candidate.

The intent of the proposed changes is to broaden public control over the activities of councilmen and to strengthen their standing and their links with voters, since it is the voters alone, directly expressing their will, who shall thus decide on the recall of the councilman and the selection of his replacement.

["Thesis"] 23. A councilman's mandate expires owing to: invalidation of election, refusal to depose oath of office, death, relinquishment of mandate, loss of the right to be elected to the concerned people's council, or recall by voters.

["Thesis"] 24. Voters may recall a councilman whose conduct violates the dignity of his office, who does not fulfill the obligations of his office, or who otherwise misplaces their trust.

The recommendation that voters be asked to recall a councilman may be offered by the local PRON council or organization which had originally nominated him, and also by voters at elections of urban or rural self-government. The recall is valid if it is supported by at least one-fifth of voters in the concerned electoral basic-level district, or by at least one-tenth of voters in an electoral district when the councilman belongs to a voivodship people's council, or too by at least one-tenth of voters from any electoral district with respect to councilmen elected from the voivodship slate. A people's council itself also may, on its own initiative, resolve to ask voters to recall the councilman.

["Thesis"] 25. Implementing the resolution of the people's council to ask voters to recall a councilman, the presidium of that council assures the conduct of meetings or meeting in the electoral district in which the councilman was elected, or in the voivodship if the recall concerns a councilman elected from the voivodship slate. On the basis of the minutes of such meetings the people's council confirms the expiration of the councilman's mandate if the meetings were attended by at least one-fourth of the registered voters and if a majority of them supported the councilman's recall.

["Thesis"] 26. In the event that a councilman's mandate expires before his term of office is over:

Variant 1. New elections may be carried out. The duty of carrying out such elections arises if more than one-half of mandates in a district is vacant.

Variant 2. The people's council adopts a resolution accepting as a replacement another candidate for the same mandate from the same electoral district provided that the replacement has not forfeited his right to be elected and had gained in the original election at least one-half of the number of votes gained by the originally elected candidate. If the new candidate does not meet these conditions, new elections may be carried out.

Comments, recommendations and opinions should be addressed to:

Chancellery of the Council of State Wiejska Street 4/6
00-950 Warsaw

The Council of State is asking the mass media to transmit to the Chancellery of the Council of State any comments and recommendations they receive concerning the proposals for amending the regulations governing elections to people's councils.

Jaruzelski, Leaders Discuss Economic Reform

LD202340 Warsaw PAP in English
2240 GMT 20 Feb 88

[Text] Warsaw, Feb. 20: Top party and government representatives met here today with a group of representatives of self-managements from several dozen enterprises. Participants discussed major self-management's problems at the threshold of the second stage of the economic reform. The debates were attended by Wojciech Jaruzelski.

The representatives of self-management were greeted by Zbigniew Messner who stressed the importance of the meeting.

Head of the Sejm Committee for Self-Management Stanislaw Kania said among other things: The chief problem which we are facing currently is the search for ways that would make the self-management to represent both its own representatives and the entire crews.

There is a demand for the creation of a clear formula of cooperation between government and workers' self-management organs.

On behalf of the Council of Ministers, the floor was taken by Vice Premier Zbigniew Szalajda who said that the government recognizes the basic importance of crews' self-managements for the economic and social transformations. We support the development of self-management as a factor favouring the increase of crews' responsibility for enterprises' economic results. This is confirmed in the implementation programme of the second stage of the economic reform, said he.

Szalajda also stated that self-managements are functioning in 95 per cent of those enterprises that are entitled to set it up, that is in 6.5 thousand units employing 6 million persons. Under preparations are draft laws aimed at providing conditions for the full implementation of the principle of universality of self-management. There is no sign here of our fears or doubts. Rights of self-management organs to decide on enterprises' joining the new structures are observed during the founding of new economic structures, that is communities, concerns or companies. We take it as rule to assure the participation of both directors and representatives of worker self-management in economic units, he said.

The vice premier said that a team for direct contacts with self-managements which is to coordinate cooperation at the level of the entire economy was established within the government under the decision of the prime minister.

During long hours of discussion, speakers spoke of the conditions as well of results of self-managements' activities, about the problems encountered by their enterprises on the threshold of the second stage of the economic reform.

Speakers also forwarded proposals of improvements, changes or corrections, which in their opinion would contribute to the increase of management efficiency.

Wojciech Jaruzelski took the floor during the discussion. I would like for the representatives of the self-managements present here and through them all the activists of self-management, to once again be assured, through the fact that this meeting is being held today, of the great rank and importance attached to their activities by the leadership of the party and state. The recently debated self-management matters and the high attendance rate at national meetings of representatives of worker councils go to prove this as well.

I want to once again stress and confirm the firmness of the stance of the party with regard to the importance of the activities of worker self-managements. This is not a seasonal or tactical stance but is of a strategic and irreversible character. This stems from, first and foremost, the provisions of the political system. The activities of self-management express the principle of social ownership, of equipping working people with the rights of host. A practical aspect is also expressed in this—the introduction of the force, wisdom and energy of crew collectives into the process of decision-making enhances the effectiveness of the economy, Jaruzelski stated.

We have several years of experience as concerns the activities of self-management. This is not an experiment anymore but a positively proven practice. We remember that a few years ago there was a slogan: self-governing Poland. This in reality meant a Poland of anarchy and licence. Today we say: a Poland of worker self-management and local self-government, a Poland of broadly understood socialist self-government. We shall safeguard such self-government and strengthen it.

As was said in the discussion, there are still many weak points in the activities of self-management. There are still numerous councils which are slow to act, there are councils which reduce their functions to social and trade union demands.

But there are also other negative phenomena, contradictory to the law on self-management. The point is that the administrations of some plants do not fulfil their obligation of consulting or informing workers councils about the basic matters of the enterprise. Subsequently they curtail their share in co-shaping the process of decision making. Facts of this kind cannot be tolerated. We are in favour of strengthening the rank of general managers of enterprises but at the same time of strengthening self-management. And in the end of strengthening the whole composition of management and the functioning of social factors in the plant. This is how the party organizations should understand their inspiring and coordinating role, Jaruzelski stated.

We have many reserves in each enterprise, in the whole Polish economy, such as: In the field of productivity, savings, quality. There is also a lot of various nonsense. Regardless of the obligation to overcome them by managerial factors, it is also necessary to render the hosts of the plants—the self-managements—more sensitive to these problems, the president of the Council of State said.

We shall continue to strengthen the position and prestige of self-management. One could already state that a system of meetings with its representatives under the auspices of the Sejm Self-Management Affairs Committee has been set up. We also see a possibility of the voice of representatives of self-management reaching central bodies on a current, operational basis. There is a possibility of creating a self-management team attached to the Government Planning Commission, based on the model of the consultative team of directors. The leadership of the party and state also deems it necessary for representatives of self-managements to enter people's councils of all levels to a greater extent than has been the case thus far, to be more numerously represented in various state consultative bodies. We should aim at a situation in which more Sejm deputies would have self-management backgrounds, Jaruzelski said.

We have passed the threshold of the second stage of economic reform but we are only at the starting point of a difficult road. The main features of the reform include a growth of independence and self-management. Only by acting consistently with the implementation program of the 2nd stage of reform will we be able to reach the set socio-economic goals. One of the key guarantees of success is the active, creative participation of working people represented by their workers' councils. Allow me to use this occasion to once again thank you for our active and devoted social activities, Jaruzelski concluded.

Taking the floor at the end of the debates, Zbigniew Messner stated that the leadership of the party and the government attached notable importance to the activities of the self-managements, to their role and position in solving the difficult problems of the country. There is no need to constantly proclaim and convince people about the permanent character of the self-management in enterprises. Including crews into management is an important element of the reform. Numerous research and analyses indicate that the rank of self-managements is growing constantly, that worker councils are strongly tied with affairs of their enterprises.

There is a certain regularity: the self-management generally performs well in good enterprises, independent, dynamic ones which overcome difficulties, on the other hand they fare poorly in weaker, passive enterprises geared to surviving and not development. The premier outlined one more group, that of bad, permanently inefficient and ill managed enterprises. He accentuated the need to capitalize on the solutions of the reform with a view to strengthen the good, to lend a helping hand ot the weaker and to eliminate the inapt.

Economic criteria will determine this, the premier stressed. And that is precisely why the self-management in each enterprise, as the co-host and body accountable befor the crew, must be aware of this fact. This is because it partakes in the success of the enterprises well as taking responsibility for its failures, Messner said.

Characterizing the activities and decisions aimed at reforming all fields of the economy, the premier especially stressed the processes of reforming the "centre." He underscored their importance but at the same time the difficulties and controversies associated with this. In this context he pointed to the need to work out not only a new style and form of the centre's work but also to the need to differently shape its contacts with enterprises. They are now independent and do not have to address the "centre" and ministries with many matters. But old habits and practices still persist, Messner said.

Speaking about the independence of enterprises as the pillar of reform, Messner stated that "unfortunately, it is still frequently abused." This is a phenomenon of abusing the systemic solutions in force by independent enterprises in the name of their own, narrowly understood interests, he said.

The premier also referred to those voices in the discussion which critically assessed the multitude of the benign legal regulations. He pointed out that works have commenced to lower their number and limit their scope.

Speaking about the principles of making government decisions, Messner stressed that various postulates and reasons were forwarded from various milieus. In making a decision we must not only take into account those stances but also bear in mind the priorities of the development of the economy as well as its capacities, he pointed out.

Party Daily Views 'Polish Socialist Party'

AU191612 Warsaw TRYBUNA LUDU in Polish 17 Feb 88 p 3

[Jerzy A. Salecki: "About the 'Polish Socialist Party'—Only the Wrapping Is Red"]

[Excerpts] Toward the end of 1987 several persons decided to "rebuild" the Polish Socialist Party. On 14 February—not quite 3 months later—AFP, which one should regard as a serious press agency, reported a "cabinet crisis," meaning that most members of the leadership of that party, including its chairman, deputy chairman, general secretary, press spokesman, and one of the four members of the Supreme Council, had given up their posts.

One does not have to exert oneself in order to obtain special publicity, however brief, in the Western press and in the Polish programs beamed by the Western radio stations. Nor has one to exert oneself in order to be hailed by the editors of the Polish illegal publications.

To obtain Western publicity it is enough for a few or more persons to declare in an appeal or resolution that they are against the activities, qualifications, and goodwill of the state authorities, to question the Polish future defined by the program for socialist renewal, and to announce that, being in possession of certain goals, an ideological program, and action principles, a political movement or party will be set up on such and such a day.

Having issued such information and having held a press conference for the foreign journalists working in Poland, those persons can be certain of publicity and assistance in various forms.

The aforementioned "cabinet crisis" can be turned into worldwide publicity.

Although the author of this article is absolutely critical of the so-called opposition activities, his initial remarks are not malicious. Nor are they meant to completely question the patriotism, personal virtues, and the sincerity of the intention of all the people without exception who continue to be dissatisfied with our political system, our authorities, and our constitutional-legal order. The structures, which we can most generally describe as informal structures, include, apart from the cynics who are greedy for applause, power, and money, those who are dreamers and idealists—those who simply can find no room for themselves in the many still somnolent and bureaucratized social organizations. The "structures" include the ferocious enemies of socialism as well as those who had been wrongly persecuted in the past and are unable to forget this and who continue to identify the old errors committed by the old authorities with the system, the cardinal principle of which—social justice—they do not reject in any way at all. [passage omitted]

Let us attempt to answer the very important question whether the self-styled "Polish Socialist Party" can be regarded as the continuation of the old, genuine Polish Socialist Party. Let us find out whether the "new party" is really socialist.

"Our program will be open," the founders of the "Polish Socialist Party" assert in their "Political Declaration," "and will be so constructed as to be able to be modified by the requirements of time and life. We do not want to base it on a rigid doctrine and to tie ourselves to any definite philosophy, although we make no secret of the fact that today it is the Catholic Church's social teachings, especially those of John Paul II, and not Marxism that appeal to us." [passage omitted]

The present "continuators" of the traditions of the Polish Socialist Party say quite frankly that the Catholic Church's social teachings appeal to them more than Marxism. There would be nothing strange in this if a Christian-democratic party made such a declaration.... People in the "old" Polish Socialist Party took a different view of this issue, because their party was invariably a lay party, nay, even an anti-clerical party from its very beginnings. [passage omitted]

The new "Polish Socialist Party" continues to proclaim calmly that it is a socialist party. But without Marx!

Public Opinion Poll Conducted To Review 1987

LD221148 Warsaw PAP in English
1126 GMT 22 Feb 88

[Text] Warsaw, Feb. 22—Asked by the public opinion research centre attached to the Polish radio and television how they personally rated 1987, 38 percent of the respondents replied "good," 48 percent "neither good nor bad," 13 percent rated it as "bad."

The opinions of the respondents polled by the centre on their personal situation in 1987 are similar to the ratings from a year or two earlier. For comparison 1985 was rated as good by 39 percent of the polled and 1986 by 38 percent

Every fifth of the polled (21 percent) expects that 1988 will be better for him or her, every third (31 percent) thinks that it will be the same as last year and 37 percent fear that it will be worse. 11 percent of the respondents had no personal opinion on the matter.

Replying to a question on "what do you, first and foremost, wish our country in 1988," the polled most frequently replied: An imporovement of the economic situation (30 percent), deepening of national agreement (28 percent), improvement of the living standard of the population (25 percent), peace in the world (23 percent), improvement of supply (16 percent), lowering of foreign debt (11 percent).

The polled less frequently (below 10 percent) formulated the following wish: Success in the implementation of economic reform, democratization of life in the country, good international cooperation, checking inflation and improving work quality in Poland.

Sejm Commission Views Contacts With Emigres

AU221055 Warsaw TRYBUNA LUDU in Polish
18 Feb 88 p 2

["Seeking New Forms Of Work With Polish Emigres"—PAP headline]

[Text] We should pursue a policy of national accord not only vis-a-vis all the forces in Poland, but would take into account all the differences among Polish exiles. If it presents a sphere of common interests which justify cooperation, then we should consolidate this cooperation. So said Jozef Czyrek, chairman of the Sejm Foreign Affairs Commission, at the Commission's 17 February meeting devoted to cooperation with Polish emigre communities.

Tadeusz Olechowski, undersecretary for foreign affairs, said that interesting and positive changes are currently taking place among Polish communities abroad. Their prestige is increasing, specific generations of Polish exiles are playing increasingly important roles in their countries of domicile, the resources of these communities are growing, and they are more interested in their national identity. This also applies to the Polish community in America, whose growing membership is in favor of closer relations with Poland, though not without reservations. These favorable changes are due to a revision of some of the principles governing relations with Polish exiles. We are seeking new forms and methods of work with Polish emigres in socialist and capitalist countries, methods that are compatible with today's times, T. Olechowski said.

Of the matters that remain to be settled, T. Olechowski mentioned the question of visas for foreign nationals who possess Polish citizenship at the same time. He also mentioned the need to introduce one type of Polish passport. The point is that Polish citizens should hold only one type of passport, regardless of where they live.

Jozef Klasa, secretary general of the "Polonia" Society, presented a history of Polish emigration. He said that we have seldom taken advantage of the presence of 13 million Poles outside Poland. We regarded some of them as a source of trouble, defended ourselves against it by means of a harsh passport and visa policy. Fortunately, all this is already a thing of the past. However, as far as various rules, legal-financial regulations, and passport matters are concerned, we cannot always speak in the past tense. When establishing a new program of cooperation, we cannot forget that we have to erase the mistrust toward Polish emigres abroad that has taken shape in the past. J. Klasa said that it is necessary to rescind the decision which stripped 75 senior military officers who had defected abroad of their Polish citizenship, and to publicize the 1971 Council of Ministers resolution which rescinded such decisions that had been made in 1964. As urgent matters, J. Klasa mentioned an amendment to the 1962 law on Polish citizenship, the institutionalization of foreign economic organizations in Poland, and permission for some Poles abroad to return to their country.

Some Sejm deputies attending the meeting said that there should be an open attitude toward so-called political emigration, that even those Poles living in the socialist countries should be encouraged to promote the Polish language, and that problems of Polish communities should be publicized in Poland.

The Presidium of the Sejm Foreign Affairs Commission presented the following motion: The PPR Sejm's Foreign Affairs Commission, believing that the fortunes and affairs of Poles scattered all over the world and the connections between persons of Polish descent and their country of origin are close to the hearts of Polish society and the Polish state, hereby calls on the Sejm Presidium to support the PZPR Deputies Club's proposal to appoint a permanent Sejm sub-commission dealing with Polish emigre affairs. This sub-commission would consist of representatives of every deputies club and circle and members of existing Sejm commissions whose capacity involves the affairs of Polish emigres.

Jaruzelski Receives Rockefeller 20 Feb

LD201332 Warsaw Domestic Service in Polish 1300 GMT 20 Feb 88

[Text] Wojciech Jaruzelski, chairman of the Council of State, today received at Belweder Palace David Rockefeller, who is in our country in connection with the inauguration of the foundation for the development of Polish agriculture.

USSR Army Delegation Celebrates Anniversary

Received by Jaruzelski

LD201907 Warsaw Domestic Service in Polish 1800 GMT 20 Feb 88

[Text] Today, Wojciech Jaruzelski met with a Red Army delegation which has arrived for the celebrations of the 70th anniversary of the Armed Forces of the Land of the Soviets, and passed on to the soldiers of the Soviet Army sincere best wishes for further successes in service for the good of socialism and peace.

Officials Attend Concert

LD202241 Warsaw PAP in English 2144 GMT 20 Feb 88

[Text] Warsaw, Feb 20—The gala concert held here today crowned Polish ceremonies marking the 70th anniversary of the Red Army.

The concert was attended by PUWP CC First Secretary, President of the Council of State, Commander-in-Chief of the Polish Armed Forces, General Wojciech Jaruzelski. Present were also Zbigniew Messner, Roman Malinowski and Florian Siwicki.

Present was also Ambassador of the Soviet Union to Poland Vladimir Bronikov, a delegation of the Red Army, headed by USSR Marshal Nikolay Ogarkov and a delegation of the Soviet Army's Northern Group headed by its commander Ivan Korbutov.

The ceremony was opened by Chairman of the Main Board of the Polish-Soviet Friendship Society Henryk Bednarski who stated that Poles are linked with the Soviet Union and its armed forces by especially close and sincere, strong ties of friendship and fraternal cooperation.

The meeting was also addressed by Vice Minister of Defence, General Antoni Jasinski who stated that a new shape of relations between Poles and nations of the Soviet Union had emerged on the combat trail of World War Two. We had united with the Soviet Army by historically shaped brotherhood-in-arms.

The minister continued: Today, the most important problem for all nations is the strengthening of peace and international security. Currently, security cannot be safeguarded by military means alone, the most efficient way are political solutions, leading towards the balance of forces at an ever lower threat level.

The Soviet Union's policy, supported by socialist states, made possible the signing of the historic INF Treaty and progress in negotiations on the reduction of strategic offensive weapons. It opened the possibility for efficient counteracting of the conventionalarms race. We are not only passive witnesses of those activities. The Jaruzelski plan is our Polish proposal for the joint search of disarmament solutions, increase of confidence in Central Europe, said the minister.

Next, the floor was taken by General Ivan Korbutov who said, among other things: We do not need a war to implement the gigantic tasks which we have set for ourselves. We can implement those creative tasks only in conditions of peace.

The brotherhood-in-arms of tactical units of the North Group of the Soviet Amred Forces and of the Polish People's Army reached a qualitatively new level, stressed the speaker.

Directly before the concert, General Wojciech Jaruzelski met with representatives of the Soviet Army who arrived for the celebrations.

Wojciech Jaruzelski conveyed to Soviet soldiers best wishes and futher successes in the service for the benefit of socialism and peace.

Wasilewski, Delegation Attend PCE Congress
LD200617 Warsaw PAP in English
1936 GMT 19 Feb 88

[By PAP Correspondent Ryszard Ginalski]

[Text] Madrid, Feb. 19—The 12th congress of the Communist Party of Spain (PCE) that started here today is attended by 619 delegates representing over 62.3 thousand members.

The Polish delegation, headed by PUWP CC Secretary Andrzej Wasilewski, is among 60 foreign delegations of communist and socialist parties and national liberation movements taking part in the congress.

Wasilewski met with Spanish Minister of Culture and Government spokesman, leadership member of the ruling PSOE Party Javier Solana. Yesterday, the head of the Polish delegation took part in a meeting devoted to the cultural policy in Poland, held at the seat of the Spanish Writers' Union.

Iranian Minister Signs Agreement, Departs
LD192256 Tehran IRNA in English
1758 GMT 19 Feb 88

[Text] Warsaw, Feb. 19, IRNA—Visting Iranian Minister of Commerce Hasan Abedi-Ja'fari left here Friday for Tehran after inking a letter of understanding. He was seen off by Polish Minister of Foreign Economic Cooperation Wladyslaw Gwiazda.

According to the letter of understanding, Iran and Poland agreed to annually exchange dlrs. 150 million worth of goods. Some 15 percent of Iranian export to Poland include non-oil goods.

It was agreed in the letter that the two countries will cooperate for establishment of food industries, and restructuring of sugar industries. The two sides stressed that Iran and Bulgaria will take part in one another's international fairs.

The Polish minister expressed hope that the volume of exchanges between Iran and Poland would increase over the next few years and that the two countries would achieve their goals.

Gwiazda emphasised that his country attaches great importance to expansion of its economic and technical cooperation with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

He expressed hope that decision made at the 2nd Tehran-Warsaw joint commission would be finalized in the next year and that bilateral exchanges would become three times that of the preceding year.

The Iranian minister arrived in Warsaw Monday at the head of a delegation to take part in the second joint economic commission meet between Iran and Poland.

PAP Reports Cooperation Talks
LD200045 Warsaw PAP in English
1900 GMT 19 Feb 88

[Text] Warsaw, Feb. 19—The 2nd session of the Polish-Iranian ministerial commission for trade, economic and technological cooperation ended here today.

The protocol defines the frame lines and concrete measures of bilateral activities in economic cooperation in 1988 and the forthcoming years. The document provides for the considerable increase in trade between the two countries against the results of 1987.

Poland will import from Iran crude oil, ores, metal concentrates, textiles, dried fruit and seeds and industrial goods. Poland's export to Iran will be dominated by machine tools, construction machines, equipment for steelworks and mines and products of the chemical and metallurgical industries.

Both sides confirmed their interest in deliveries to Iran of merchant and fishing vessels.

Orzechowski Issues Statement on Asian Tour

LD211854 Warsaw PAP in English
1811 GMT 21 Feb 88

[Text] Warsaw, Feb 21—Polish Foreign Affairs Minister Marian Orzechowski supplied the Polish press agency with the following statement:

Today I am leaving for an official visit to the Republic of India, the Kingdom of Thailand, and Malaysia at the invitation of the foreign ministers of those countries.

The political and economic rank of South Asia and South-East Asia has grown, not only on the continental by the global scale as well. They are increasingly becoming an interesting partner for economic, political and cultural cooperation.

In the last 2-3 years Poland has revived relations with this region. This stems from an understanding of our interests, of the need to think about them in the long-term. It is in line with the open character of Polish foreign policy, with its traditionally reaching beyond the territory of Europe.

India, the first stage of the trip, is a leading representative of the movement of non-aligned states. It is our biggest, traditional partner among developing states. Our relations with India have years-long traditions and cover all fields of cooperation.

I would like to review bilateral relations with my counterpart, and above all the implementation of the decisions adopted during the visit of Wojciech Jaruzelski to India in 1985.

We will attach special attention to the intensification of economic cooperation. Trade turnover has been growing systematically (158 million dollars in 1985, 270 million dollars at present) but it does not satisfy both countries. We think that the time has come to depart from traditional forms of trade and to advance to more complex forms of industrial co-production and economic cooperation.

We will listen attentively to India's stance on key international issues. We have for years noted with satisfaction the convergence of the positions taken by both countries on the paramount issues of the modern world.

The visit to Thailand and Malaysia is an expression of our interest in developing friendly, mutually beneficial relations with these states.

We are conducting regular political dialogue with them. We have developed certain forms of cultural and scientific cooperation. The state of economic relations, however, does not satisfy us. In Bangkok and Kuala Lumpur we will seek ways and means to improve this state of affairs. This lies in our common interest.

We have friendly relations with all states of Indo-China. Our relations with ASEAN countries are developing to an increasing extent. We wish for all disputed and difficult problems surfacing between the states of the region to be resolved along a peaceful road. The efforts made of late fill us with certain optimism and hope. We will present our partners with the Polish point of view and our readiness to participate in the search for peaceful and lasting solutions to these disputed and difficult problems.

During talks and meetings in all three countries we will present Poland's current stance on issues of peace, disarmament, East-West relations. We will also acquaint the other side with the current state of talks concerning the plan for decreasing armaments and increasing confidence in Central Europe, known as the Jaruzelski Plan. We will listen with attention to the opinions of the hosts on the situation in South and South-East Asia.

Arrives in India 22 Feb

LD220950 Warsaw Domestic Service in Polish
0900 GMT 22 Feb 88

[Text] Delhi. Polish Foreign Minister Marian Orzechowski has arrived here on an official visit. At the Indira Gandhi Airport at the capital, Minister Orzechowski was greeted by Natwar Singh; the Indian minister of state for external affairs. In a statement to All India Radio and press agencies, Marian Orzechowski said that the visit is to accelerate the implementation of decisions made in 1985 by Wojciech Jaruzelski and Rajiv Gandhi, especially in the area of economic exchange.

Further on Meeting of Agriculture Council

Ceausescu Presents Awards

AU191911 Bucharest AGERPRES in English
1740 GMT 19 Feb 88

[Text] Bucharest, AGERPRES, 19/02/1988—Friday, February 19, Nicolae Ceausescu, general secretary of the Romanian Communist Party, president of the Socialist Republic of Romania, handed over the high order of "Hero of the New Agrarian Revolution" to Olt County, to Ilfov Agricultural Sector—Bucharest Municipality and to several socialist agricultural units for their special results obtained in the translation into fact of the RCP and Romanian state policy of achieving an intensive, modern and highly efficient agriculture and for the big crops they obtained on large areas of land in 1987 in accord with the requirements of the new agrarian revolution.

The ceremony was held in the presence of the participants in the enlarged plenary meeting of the National Council of Agriculture, Food Industry, Silviculture and Water management.

Further on Plenum Proceedings

AU191912 Bucharest AGERPRES in English
1820 GMT 19 Feb 88

[Text] Bucharest, AGERPRES, 19/2/1988—The proceedings of the enlarged plenary meeting of the National Council of Agriculture, the Food Industry, Silviculture and Water Management continued on Friday, February 19, in the presence of RCP General Secretary and Romania's President Nicolae Ceausescu.

The plenary meeting, held on February 17, 18 and 19, highlighted the broad development of Romanian Socialist Agriculture and its continuous modernization, the realistic and just character of the RCP policy.

February 19 was the day for the discussions in plenum.

During the proceedings it was agreed that the Ministry of Contracts and Acquisitions of Farm Products, set up under Decree No. 3 of January 18, 1988, be included in the National Council of Agriculture, the Food Industry, Silviculture and Water Management, and its relevant minister be a member of the Executive Bureau of the National Council, as vice-chairman.

After the debates, when 336 participants took the floor in plenum, by groups of counties, and in councils by areas of activity, the plenary meeting unanimously approved the documents in the agenda.

A resolution and call of the enlarged plenary meeting of the National Council of Agriculture, the Food Industry, Silviculture and Water Management was also adopted.

In the end, Nicolae Ceausescu, general secretary of the RCP, president of Romania, took the floor. The speech made by the RCP and Romanian state leader was followed with interest and full approval and repeatedly punctuated with lively, long applause.

Further on Ceausescu Speech

LD200919 Bucharest AGERPRES in English
0845 GMT 20 Feb 88

[Text] Bucharest AGERPRES 20/2/1988—Speaking on Friday at the end of a three-day enlarged plenary meeting of the National Council of Agriculture, President Nicolae Ceausescu said the forum conducted thorough, democratic debates on the growing contribution of agriculture to the fulfilment of Romania's socioeconomic development plan.

The president underscored that last year's achievements, more particularly the about 31-million-ton cereal production, was a decisive step toward attaining the targets of the agrarian revolution.

In 1988, the RCP general secretary said, action must be taken so that the farm output be the best ever in Romania.

He considered that, generally, farm operations this year should be performed on 18 million hectares including, beside the 10,500,000 hectares of arable land, also large areas of pasture, hayfield, vineyard and orchard as well as the preparation of at least 3,500,000 hectares of woodland for grazing.

The president underlined the demand to implement the irrigation and land improvement programmes, specifying that this year the irrigated area should cover more than 4 million hectares.

Practically speaking, in the socialist sector almost 50 per cent of the area under maize, nearly 40 per cent of that under wheat, as well as a good part of that under barley and the other cultures are irrigated as well as the whole area under vegetables. This year too, activities will be aimed at achieving a cereal production in line with the requirements of the new agrarian revolution, the speaker said and pointed out that conditions were in place to attain the planned production. We have everything we need in all sectors, President Nicolae Ceausescu said, to fulfil this years plan and programmes—a fine technical and material base, and land, which, if tilled and administered as it should, will provide for the attainment of the planned productions. Above all, we have farmers who have proved they can and know how to take Romanian agriculture on to ever higher development levels.

Referring further to the measures taken along the years in agriculture and in the economy as a whole for the improvement of management and planning of the entire activity, the president said inter alia: We have always considered the requirements and practice of socialist construction in our country. Undoubtedly, we have also considered overall experience, too. We have taken account of the general laws, all while keeping in mind that they cannot be applied in an unchanged and uniform manner, that we ought to take account of the realities in our country—which we did, in agriculture as well. We have created a broadly democratic framework, which is a part of revolutionary worker democracy and provides for the whole people's participation in running all sectors of activity, in consideration of the fact that we build socialism with the people and for the people.

In his speech President Nicolae Ceausescu emphasized that there were places where the role of producer cooperative farms, of the management boards in cooperatives, state farming enterprises and farm machinery stations was underestimated and urged an end to those states of affairs, the firm application of the principles of self-administration and self-management in all areas of activity, the improvement of the activity of state farming enterprises, of democratic management bodies. The president requested county bodies to support the joint agroindustrial councils, set up as part of democratic management in agriculture, with a view to ensuring both the coordination of activities in the respective area, a better specialization and the joint performance of a number of operations.

Referring to the measures taken as concerns the pay and the incomes of cooperative farmers and of the other working people in agriculture, in consideration of the need to firmly apply the overall-agreement system and material incentives, the president showed that, in broad lines, existing provisions were fine, that there were units and even counties, however, which tried to level incomes to the detriment of others that have large productions. A lower pay than that set for the given level of production should, for no reason, be accepted, President Nicolae Ceausescu stressed. Last year's overall income in stock, he said, stood at roughly ten million tons of cereals—wheat, maize, barley and oats—which includes that made by cooperative farmers and individual producers from their own plots. That almost equals the all-country production of 1954-1956-1957. Therefore, this system provides for a strong growth of incentives and of the amount of cereals and other farm produce which, correspondingly, go to cooperative farmers. And this growth is closely linked to the even higher rise in farm production.

An end must be put for ever to bureaucratism, formalism, and red-tape by the Ministry of Agriculture and agricultural county bodies in their handling of various problems President Nicolae Ceausescu went on. The ministry, and its bodies should concentrate their activities on the units, because it is there that the production is decided, stressed the speaker adding that the activity of agricultural organs, from top to bottom, must be correlated to that of the units, to daily production, to give timely solutions to the problems of agriculture with a sense of responsibility.

To achieve the agricultural production, the president underscored, is essential for a good supply of the whole country, for a growing contribution of agriculture to general development. At the same time, it is very important that all farm products be delivered in time, and be proportional with the productions and the contracts.

In reference to the new Ministry of Contracts and Acquisitions which coordinates plant and animal products contracting, the speaker showed that the ministry was set up so as to ensure unitary control and the food products for the population as well as the raw materials for industry. The food industry, the president also said, must radically improve its activity, diversify its production, and give the population good products in line with the demands for a scientific and rational food.

Generally speaking, the number of calories is large, in fact larger than necessary—more than 3500 calories per person. Nevertheless, we must take measures to diversify production so that is should meet ever better the demands of each category of working people, and also ensure a more rational nutrition.

In his speech President Nicolae Ceausescu called attention to the necessity of achieving export production and export in accordance with the programmes and plans for each sphere of activity. He also underscored the major role of scientific research in agriculture as well, and the need to more firmly apply its results to production, and to improve agricultural education.

In concluding his speech President Nicolae Ceausescu stressed that the carrying through of the agricultural and other sectors development programmes and plans was the best contribution farmers and all those who work in agriculture could make to implementing Romania's home and foreign policy, its policy of peace, disarmament and collaboration with all the states of the world.

Territorial Reorganization Anniversary Noted

AU202143 Bucharest ROMANIA LIBERA in Romanian 16 Feb 88 pp 1,2

[Iosif Boda article: "20 Years Since the Territorial-Administrative Reorganization of the Country—A Principled and Consistent Policy to Ensure Equal Working and Living Conditions For All the Sons of the Homeland"]

[Excerpts] An entire historical period has passed since our homeland changed from a country with weak industry and backward agriculture—with remnants of a specifically feudal system and feudal working conditions—to a socialist country with developed and modern industry and agriculture in the full swing of progress. This period has been successfully traversed by the Romanian people with enthusiasm, self-denial, competence, and devotion, and with heroic work and great efforts, under the leadership of the Communist Party. [passage omitted]

The administrative-territorial reorganization of the country, carried out in 1968, was an event of particular significance in the strategy of socioeconomic, cultural, and spiritual development of the country, a strategy that was endorsed by and consistently applied after the Ninth RCP Congress. The administrative-territorial reorganization was aimed primarily at creating a more favorable framework to ensure the rational distribution of production forces and of economic, social, and cultural objectives throughout the country, and to ensure the more marked and rapid progress of some less developed regions. [passage omitted]

Certainly, the road traveled by the Romanian people in their socialist development has not been an easy and smooth one, without difficulties and hardships. Undoubtedly, there are still problems and there will be more difficulties to overcome. However, it is certain that everything we, the citizens of this country, have achieved with the work of our minds and hands and everything we have built—great works which will last a long time and will always provide proof of the capabilities and efforts of this nation—is the result of the work performed by us, all the citizens and the rightful masters of this land, regardless of our parents' origin or of our own ethnic origins; it is the result of the work of all those who, together with their own mother tongue and the language of the Romanian people, have also learned the language of work, with skill and responsibility! [passage omitted]

The RCP's domestic and foreign policy, and Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu's theoretical and practical activity, are great examples of revolutionary and militant humanism for all the working people who belong to the nationalities living together in Romania. Our party and its general secretary have done everything to raise our nation to new pinnacles of socialist civilization and culture and have always taken a decisive stand against all nationalist and chauvinist manifestations—no matter where they originate—against any kind of nationalist exclusiveness, and have firmly stressed that the national pride that must be promoted cannot and must not be opposed to the pride of other nationalities or other people. On the contrary, it must be one of the factors that contributes to strengthening the force and unity of all the working people in our country and, at the same time, the friendship and understanding with other nations.

The realities expressed either in the exact and concrete language of figures and statistics or in feelings, thoughts, clear reasoning and judgment, and in the belief in an ideal are clear, evident and natural and form a part of everyday life for all citizens of our homeland. However, they unfortunately are "unintelligible" for others who cannot or will not understand or accept things the way they are. The crucial moments in the common history of the Romanian people and the history of the nationalities living together are not only misinterpreted and slandered, but sometimes attempts, which should be directed toward a more noble cause, are made to picture the current realities in Romania in the darkest possible terms. These attempts are clearly the expression of the intention to avoid the truth by all means, thus harming all the people in an inadmissible way.

Attempts made to impose a certain point of view on various issues of socialist revolution and socialist construction; attempts to pose as unfailing judges of existing realities and as possessors of supreme truths and of solutions to other people's problems; and attempts to encourage either tacitly or explicitly some manifestations that are foreign to the principles of international relations between independent and sovereign countries—the more so between socialist countries—such attempts are very close to or even direct expressions of what one calls interference in other nations' internal affairs. These activities, often manipulated, do not serve the interests of cooperation and friendship among nations or relations of good neighborliness; they do not serve the cause of peace, progress, and socialism. They can endanger the fraternal, free, and dignified life and work of the Romanian nation and of the other nationalities living together in our homeland.

The friendship, fraternity, and unity among all the citizens in Socialist Romania is a reality forged throughout the years—through common struggle and sacrifices, and through firm, united, and committed working and thinking. It is a reality that we reiterate daily—a reality that constitutes one of the propelling forces of our progress along the path of socialist civilization. [passage omitted]

SCINTEIA Views Cooperation in Balkan Region

AU191910 Bucharest AGERPRES in English 1830 GMT 19 Feb 88

["Good Neighborliness and Growing Cooperation in the Balkans—a Contribution to Detente and Peace"—AGERPRES headline]

[Text] Bucharest, AGERPRES 19/2/1988—Growing relations with the neighbour countries, good neighbourhood has been a basic foreign policy line of socialist Romania, says a commentary in SCINTEIA of February 19 which stresses that that line shows in Romania's political relations, in the positive course of its links with the other neighbour states, and in its many diplomatic actions and initiatives in any part of the world which was the basis for a Romanian proposal brought before the United Nations. Romania's proposal to define the concept and relations of good neighbourliness concerns first of all its own geographical zone, viz. the Balkan Peninsula and its transformation into an area of peace, understanding and cooperation. Related to that, the newspaper shows, of great importance is President Nicolae Ceausescu's proposal for a Balkan summit that could adopt efficient measures, as well as approach and define actions apt to build up confidence and deepen inter-Balkan cooperation.

The commentary brings out in bold relief Romania's friendly and cooperative ties with all the Balkan countries, its consistent action for good neighbourliness in the Balkans. It is Romania's view that good neighbourliness should be founded on the new principles of relations—respect for national sovereignty and independence, full equality of rights, noninterference in domestic affairs, non-recourse to the threat or use of force and mutual advantage and aid. These principles are laid down in Romania's treaties of friendship, solemn declarations and joint communiques with the other states in the Balkans and elsewhere in the world.

Romania, says the newspaper, has constantly upheld the idea that the Balkan countries should concentrate on what they have in common and unites them, not on what separates them, in order to be able to find the factors of rapprochement and of agreement. It was that approach that enabled the calling of the meeting of the foreign ministers of Albania, Bulgaria, Greece, Romania, Turkey and Yugoslavia due to start in Belgrade next week. Noting that preliminary contacts and consultations favoured the absence of a previously agreed agenda so that the participants may freely exchange opinions on how cooperation can expand in areas of mutual interest, the newspaper writes: unquestionably, this foreign ministerial meeting—the first ever attended by all six Balkan countries—is a major political event that confirms the justness of the orientations and actions taken over the years, the necessity for greater efforts to develop inter-Balkan good neighbourliness, friendship and multilateral cooperation. A fruitful Balkan foreign ministerial meeting would also be a first big step and open up development prospects for cooperation and understanding among all the states in the region. It would be a useful step in that direction, toward a Balkan summit, which Romania proposed and which can make decisions and take measures with far-reaching positive effects to make the great desiderata for peace and progress of the peoples in this part of Europe come true. Growing good neighbourliness, the Romanian newspaper shows, would also create the conditions for the resolution of the problems on which opinions still vary, as the president of Romania showed and pave the way for more complex political aims to be attained. They would include the creation of a zone of peace free of nuclear weapons in the Balkans, an idea that Romania has steadfastly supported. At the same time it should be said that, favouring the denuclearization of the Balkans, Romania and Bulgaria launched—as a joint proposal—the declaration and call of President Nicolae Ceausescu and President Todor Zhivkov on the creation of a chemical-free zone in the Balkans. It is the firm belief of Romania, of the Romanian people that the transformation of the Balkans into a zone of peace without nuclear and chemical weapons, and foreign military basis, a region where the level of conventional arms is constantly lower would make a significant contribution to European security. If the Balkans became such a zone, security and peace would prevail in a good part of Europe, notes SCINTEIA adding that more security, and a better cooperation in the Balkans would mean more security and peace in Europe.

Romania is determined to make its full contribution to the development of good neighbourliness in the Balkans and in Europe, in agreement with the aspirations and interests for peace, security and cooperation of the peoples in our geographical region, of the peoples of the globe, SCINTEIA winds up its commentary.

Coman Attends Spanish CP Congress

Presents RCP Message

AU201629 Bucharest AGERPRES in English 1315 GMT 20 Feb 88

["RCP Message to Congress of Communist Party of Spain"—AGERPRES headline]

[Text] Madrid, AGERPRES, 20/02/1988—Ion Coman, member of the Executive Political Committee, secretary of the CC of the RCP, RCP representative at the 12th congress of the Communist Party of Spain, addressed a warm comradely salute to the forum of Spanish Communists, in behalf of the Romanian Communist Party, of its general secretary, Nicolae Ceausescu.

Communists, working people of Romania—the message of salute shows—follow with keen interest and feelings of fraternal solidarity the struggle of the Spanish Communists for renewing changes in society, for the attainment of the Spanish working class and people's aspirations at progress and prosperity, give high valuation to the friendly relations of solidarity and close collaboration between the Romanian Communist Party and the Communist Party of Spain and express the belief that intensified dialogue and contacts between executives of the two parties and countries will help strengthen these relations.

The message points out that the RCP holds that in the current international conditions—which continue most grave and complex—a new way of thinking in and approach to the war and peace problems mostly and to other problems facing mankind are required. Given the huge nuclear stockpiles in place, another war would inevitably turn into a nuclear catastrophe. So, we maintain that the cardinal issue of the contemporary epoch—the message says—is an end to the arms race and a passage to specific disarmament measures, nuclear above all, ensurance of people and nations' foremost right to life, peace, free and dignified existence.

Emphasis is placed in the message on the fact that the signing of the Soviet-American Treaty on the elimination of medium and shorter range missiles should be a first step toward the conclusion of new understandings which should eventually lead to the total elimination of nuclear arms from Europe and the whole world. We believe that all political workers, progressive and pacifist forces should take much firmer actions for the removal of nuclear arms from the continent.

The message goes on to say that new political way of thinking requires the dismantlement of military blocs, withdrawal of foreign troops from other states' territories, the dismantlement of foreign military bases and a substantial cut in conventional troops and arms and also in military spending.

We are firmly for the development of collaboration and solidarity with all communist and worker, socialist and social-democratic parties, with national liberation movements, with all revolutionary, progressive and democratic forces, for the creation of a new-type unity in the worker movement, for detente and collaboration, for peace and progress the world over, the message winds up.

Received by Dolores Ibarruri

AU211705 Bucharest AGERPRES in English
1530 GMT 21 Feb 88

[Text] Madrid AGERPRES 21/2/1988—Dolores Ibarruri, president of the Communist Party of Spain, received Ion Coman, member of the Executive Political Committee, secretary of the CC of the RCP, who is the representative of the Romanian Communist Party to the Twelfth Congress of the Communist Party of Spain. On the occasion cordial messages of friendship were exchanged between the general secretary of the Romanian Communist Party, Nicolae Ceausescu, and the president of the Communist Party of Spain.

Constantin at Portuguese Socialist Congress

Meets Social Democratic Leader

AU201659 Bucharest AGERPRES in English
1525 GMT 20 Feb 88

[Text] Lisbon, AGERPRES, 20/02/1988—Manuel Dias Loureiro, secretary-general of the Social Democratic Party of Portugal, received Nicolae Constantin, member of the Executive Political Committee of the CC of the RCP, chairman of the Central Party Collegium, RCP representative to the Congress of the Portuguese Socialist Party.

On the occasion opinions were exchanged on the growth of the Romanian-Portuguese ties and aspects of the current international situation were approached.

The interview occasioned an exchange of messages between RCP General Secretary and Romania's President Nicolae Ceausescu and the Portuguese Social Democratic leaders, the chairman of the Social Democratic Party and Portuguese prime minister, Anibal Cavaco Silva, and the secretary-general of the Social Democratic Party, Manuel Dias Loureiro.

RCP Message Delivered

AU211706 Bucharest AGERPRES in English
1601 GMT 21 Feb 88

["RCP Message to Congress of the Portuguese Socialist Party"—AGERPRES headline]

[Text] Lisbon AGERPRES 21/2/1988—In behalf of the Romanian Communist Party, of its general secretary, Nicolae Ceausescu, the delegates to the Seventh Congress of the Portuguese Socialist Party were addressed a cordial salute by the RCP representative to the congress, Nicolae Constantin, member of the Executive Political Committee of the CC of the RCP, chairman of the Central Party Collegium.

The message of salute expresses the belief that the good relations between the two parties will expand for the benefit of the broadening of the ties between Romania and Portugal, between the Romanian and Portuguese peoples.

Referring to the present international conditions, which continue to be grave and complex, the message emphasizes that it requires, in the Romanian Communist Party's opinion, a new way of thinking and approaching of the war- and peace-related questions, of the international problems in general.

The message restates that the RCP considers that the fundamental problem of contemporary world is the halting of the arms race and passage to disarmament, nuclear disarmament first and foremost, the ensurance of the peoples' right to life, to peace, to free and dignified existence. It is necessary, the message also stresses, that actions be taken by all political, worker, progressive, pacifist forces for the transformation of Europe into a zone of collaboration and peace, for the building of a united Europe.

The RCP considers that it is highly necessary the peaceful, negotiated settlement of all interstate conflicts, the liquidation of military bases and the removal of foreign troops from other states' territory, the elimination of any forms of interference in other states' internal affairs. [as received] An important factor of the success in the joint struggle for national liberation and independence, for detente and collaboration, for disarmament, peace and progress all over the world is the continuous strengthening of the ties and collaboration among communist and worker parties, socialist and social democratic parties, progressive and democratic forces.

Constantin Meets Cunhal

AU211707 Bucharest AGERPRES in English
1557 GMT 21 Feb 88

[Text] Lisbon AGERPRES 21/2/1988—The secretary-general of the Portuguese Communist Party, Alvaro Cunhal, had an interview with Nicolae Constantin, member of the Executive Political Committee of the CC of the RCP, chairman of the Central Party Collegium.

During the interview emphasis was placed on the relations between the RCP and the PCP based on mutual respect, and the wish was expressed to further develop the relations between the two parties in the interest of the cause of international peace and collaboration.

The interview occasioned an exchange of friendly salutes between RCP General Secretary Nicolae Ceausescu and Alvaro Cunhal.

Mamula, Delegation Leave for Moscow

LD211216 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1136 GMT 21 Feb 88

[Excerpt] Belgrade, 21 Feb (TANJUG)—At the invitation of the USSR defense minister, a delegation of the SFRY Armed Forces led by Admiral of the Fleet Branko Mamula, federal secretary of national defense, left for Moscow today where it will attend the celebration of the 70th anniversary of the formation and development of the USSR Armed Forces. [passage omitted]

Balkan Ministerial Meeting Previewed

LD211407 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1220 GMT 21 Feb 88

[By Djordje Milosevic]

[Text] Belgrade, February 21 (TANJUG)—A foreign ministerial meeting of the Balkan countries is starting here next Wednesday as a trial of their readiness to promote multilateral cooperation. A positive outcome of the first meeting of the Balkan countries' diplomacy heads could contribute to a further improvement in the political climate.

Many bilateral meetings so far and statements made by their official representatives make one presume that their meeting at Yugoslavia's initiative would go in a constructive tone and be oriented towards finding out possibilities for strengthening their cooperation in those fields where their needs are in common and their interests identical.

Bilateral consultations to date also make one conclude that the Balkan countries are agreed on a continuity of such meetings and this would be an encouraging sign for Balkan developments in the future.

Nobody from among the participants-to-be in a meeting to assemble all the Balkan countries, namely Albania, Bulgaria, Greece, Romania, Turkey and Yugoslavia, harbours any illusions that the three-day gathering could solve problems being deposited in the Balkans for decades now. The Belgrade gathering was not even convened in order to solve problems among the Balkan states, but it is likely anyhow that some of their problems would be present in a definite form. Accepted has been the idea that agreement on cooperation, where really possible, can create conditions for solving bilateral problems.

Already now it can be asserted that the Belgrade meeting will assume a larger, European dimension, for all that this will be the first gathering in the history of the Balkan countries to take [words indistinct] the presence of "a third party." It is devoted not to shutting out but to opening up the Balkans towards Europe of which it is an integral part, Yugoslav official representatives keep stating. "We do not wish to have any third party meddle in, but we wish to work together with third parties," a Yugoslav diplomat said the other day.

Possibilities for advancing economic cooperation are expected to be found on the most important items at the meeting as commodity exchange and other forms of economic cooperation fall far behind possibilities. So, for instance, Yugoslavia's commodity exchange with all Balkan states accounts for merely about four percent of its all-in trade with the world. Like proportions are to be found with other Balkan states as well. This means that the advantage of geographical neighbourhood is not being benefitted from, but that they are mostly oriented towards partners from other regions.

Transport is another field of importance in which their Balkan cooperation could be much more successful. Or else, the Balkan countries making a natural bridge connecting Europe and the Middle (?East) will face the risk of having Western European and other states going in search of alternative directions for their railway and road ties with the Near and Middle East.

Also to be realistically expected are agreements on promoting scientific, technical and technological and local frontier cooperation among the Balkan countries as well as on promoting ties in agriculture, tourism, public health, culture, education and human environment protection.

Bearing witness of the importance being attached in the Balkan capitals to this meeting is that all the countries concerned, in addition to their ministers, are going to send to Belgrade their deputies and whole groups of experts.

The forthcoming meeting also attracted much of attention among the world public. The accreditation of 335 journalists, 150 of them from abroad, has been announced. A TV team and a group of journalists are also being awaited to come from Albania and this will be the first case in practice to date of mass information media from that country.

Albanian Decision Examined

LD211457 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1348 GMT 21 Feb 88

[By Salih Konjhodzic]

[Text] Belgrade, Feb 21 (TANJUG)—The great many, largely bilateral, meetings so far of representatives of the Balkan countries have shown that the modalities of cooperation are virtually inexhaustible.

At the latest meeting of Balkan countries' experts in Bucharest towards the end of 1986, Turkey participated in the capacity of observers whereas Albania excused itself for not being able to participate. The Bucharest meeting discussed the banning of tests, production and storing of all sorts of chemical weapons in the region.

On April 6, 1987, Raif Dizdarevic, federal foreign secretary until recently, said in a television broadcast that Yugoslavia had proposed the holding of a foreign ministerial meeting of the Balkan countries. Now the ministers are to meet together in Belgrade next week.

What has been a surprise of sorts is Albania's accord to take part in the foreign ministerial meeting, disrupting Tirana's self-isolation of many years. Albania had hitherto almost mechanically rejected any such invitations—from Athens, Belgrade, Ankara, Sofia, and Bucharest—to participate in regional Balkan conferences.

Albania had been backing up a thesis of bilateral cooperation as against that of multilateral contacts amongst the Balkan countries.

Since recently, however, Albania has been making marked cautious endeavours to come out of its self-isolation, as may be seen from the fact that it has established diplomatic relations with ten-odd countries in the past year's time. No longer is Albania an "isolated Balkan island."

Albania has decided to take part in the Belgrade meeting apparently for practical reasons, as Tirana's road out of its long isolation goes only via the Balkan borders, above all those of its neighbours—Yugoslavia and Greece.

For years, Yugoslavia has been Albania's major trading partner despite the fact that the two countries' relations are burdened with many a problem, especially by Tirana's interference in Kosovo events.

Since 1987, Albania has been linked by a railway line through Yugoslavia with external world. The railway line, rationally and fully exploited, opens up fresh possibilities of Albania's overall, economic and other prosperity.

In addition to trade, certainly there are other reasons for Albania's opening towards the Balkans, and hence towards Europe and the world generally. What is in the first place concerned is the endeavour of Albania's new leadership to play an increasingly active role on the international political scene.

Last June, Albanian leader Ramiz Alia stated that "Albania in principle has never been against bilateral or multilateral gatherings." It is as significant a change in Albania's stand as this that has opened the path towards Belgrade where all the six Balkan countries will for the first time hold their meeting at ministerial level.

Cooperation Agreement Signed With Albania

LD191935 Belgrade TANJUG in English
1807 GMT 19 Feb 88

[Text] Tirana, Feb 19 (TANJUG)—An agreement on scientific, educational and cultural cooperation between Yugoslavia and Albania, defining the principles of the two countries' future cooperation in these fields, was signed in Tirana today.

The agreement, which constitutes a contribution to cooperation between the two neighbouring Balkan countries, was signed by Director of the Yugoslav Institute for International Cultural-Educational and Scientific-Technical Cooperation Marijan Strbasic and Chairman of the Albanian Committee for External Cultural and Friendly Ties Jorgo Melica.

U.S. Decision To Close PLO Mission Viewed

AU192009 Belgrade Domestic Service
in Serbo-Croatian 1800 GMT 19 Feb 88

[Text] Arab countries officially requested that an extraordinary session of the UN General Assembly be convoked on the occasion of the U.S. Government's arbitrary decision to close down the PLO Mission to the UN Organization. Ejub Stikovac, Radio Yugoslavia journalist, on this occasion:

It is still a question whether this session will be held by the end of this month, as Clovis Maqsud, representative of the Arab League to the United Nations, expects, because, according to the UN Charter, such a session is convoked by the Secretary General at the request of the Security Council or the majority of UN members. Under present circumstances such a meeting is indispensable not only because of the above-mentioned American decision that is at complete variance with the agreement between the United Nations and the United States, the country in which the world organization has its headquarters.

It is not accidental that Washington made this decision after the beginning of the Palestinian uprising on the occupied territories. It represents a special kind of pressure exerted on the insurgents and on the PLO in general. If the PLO mission at the United Nations is closed down, then the PLO's diplomatic activity will be made considerably more difficult, and it needs the world organization today more than ever.

Many analysts of Middle East events agree that if the present uprising of the Palestinians fails to result in the creation of their own independent state, it is hardly possible that they will have that state in the foreseeable future. Because of the seriousness of the situation alone, the United Nations has a special obligation toward the Palestinians. After all, it had made the decision on creating the state of Israel that has in fact resulted in the Palestinian people losing their rights.

It is strange that the United States has made the decision to close down the PLO mission to the United States at the moment when a considerable part of the Israeli public is more and more aware of the fact that one must negotiate with the Palestinians. This has been confirmed by many articles in the Israeli press. The decision is also contrary to the views of a portion of the American public who could see that at the occupied Arab territories one gravely violates the international law and tramples upon human rights, which, after all, the Americans consider to be sacred.

Whatever the fate of the PLO Mission to the United Nations will be, the fact remains that this liberation organization has managed to survive even in the most difficult situations.

Economic Integration Seen Bypassing SFRY

AU191120 Belgrade BORBA in Serbo-Croatian 16 Feb 88 p 4

[Reprint from NOVOSTI 8: "Bride Without Dowry"]

[Text] In the current process of general economic integration in Europe, will Yugoslavia remain a lonely and isolated island and eventually end up in the company of only Albania—this is the question raised in today's issue of NOVOSTI 8 in an article entitled "Somewhere Between." The EC has decided to become a single market by 1992, to abolish almost all economic barriers and cause an unprecedented sensation on our planet—issuing a challenge to gigantic markets such as the American, Canadian, or Japanese markets. Accepting the logic of global economics, the Eastern bloc has also started negotiations within its camp on this theme and is at the same time preparing the ground for good economic arrangements and mutual recognition of the EC and CEMA. And finally, the last major economic grouping, EFTA, whose member countries have neutral and free customs union as a common denominator, is also quickly preparing itself so as not be caught by surprise in the year 1992.

Talks started first in the federal organs and then in scientific institutions in order to, as their members pointed out, realistically and objectively assess the issue and determine the direction of their actions. But right at the beginning two things emerged as a kind of silent constraint: Yugoslavia could have difficulty in fitting into the rules of the game dictated by the EC and CEMA, considering its internal organization and its nonaligned position. The other problem is that one would have to examine how the present Yugoslavia could attain the best position itself, some special status or, as is said, a status of its own kind, which would be granted to it as to some kind of princess, because it is Yugoslavia.

The present and the future EC is the logical epilogue to economic, technological, and scientific links. The other factor is the fact that all the countries have the same type of political set up: parliamentary multiparty democracy, which is the formal condition for membership (according to the Rome Convention), a factor that is closely related to the processes of economic, scientific, and technological unification in a single market.

As far as EFTA is concerned, which some Yugoslavs think would be our ticket for closer ties with the more developed countries, certain members of this grouping are very sceptical about whether the SFRY could become a member of it in any form, because this grouping has rigorous regulations on free trade, which would not at all suit Yugoslavia's sealed off economy.

As far as CEMA is concerned, things are simpler because the grouping's economic principles are not compatible with ours, considering our determination to turn toward the market and a real economy.

In other words it is an illusion to think that we are desperately wanted by anybody. Regardless of the fact that Yugoslavia is a desirable bride to be, it is correct to ask whether there is anything Yugoslavia can do in order not to find itself in a sad position and think that it is sharing a continent in which some rich nations live.

Talks about the homogenization of Europe's economy are taking place at a time when Yugoslavia is trying, in the opinion of the FEC, the SFRY Presidency, and other levels of political will and power, to introduce essential reforms and thus open the way to overcoming the crisis. The fact is that in these talks are in a stalemate on economic issues, and within them, on the answer to the question of what constitutes an economic entity and social ownership: whether these are things nobody cares about, or whether they are something that should become a precise category from which those generating wealth will profit, bearing the business risks, of course.

Even though the solutions up to now have been shown to be completely ineffective, there is still no indication that the courage exists to abandon the reproduction of poverty and to stop reckoning things without taking all factors into account. It would not be bad to remind ourselves that links with the developed world depend on these solutions and that it is an illusion to expect that after it is integrated, Europe will be particularly interested in our regions so long as they are poor and do not adapt themselves. The president of the EC was clear about this during his visit to the SFRY last fall: "We have so much work to do by 1992 that it is difficult to believe that Yugoslavia, in which we are otherwise interested, will be our number one theme."

Setinc Receives CPSU Provincial Official

LD191220 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1132 GMT 19 Feb 88

[Text] Belgrade, 19 Feb (TANJUG)—Franc Setinc, member of the Presidium of the LCY Central Committee, today received Boris Kiberev, second secretary of the Krasnodar Kray CPSU Provincial Committee, who is in Yugoslavia at the head of a CPSU study delegation. Reference was made to LCY-CPSU cooperation and issues relating to the area of public information.

Rozic Pays Official Visit to Australia

LD201459 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1015 GMT 20 Feb 88

[Excerpt] Sydney, 20 Feb (TANJUG)—Dr Marjan Rozic, president of the SFRY Assembly, arrived in Melbourne from Wellington today, following his 2-day official and friendly visit to New Zealand. [passage omitted]

Newspaper Calls for 'New Government'

AU211441 Zagreb VJESNIK in Serbo-Croatian
14 Feb 88 p 5

[Predrag Tasic article: "Why Does the Government Govern Poorly?"]

[Text] Two weeks ago, Italian Prime Minister Giovanni Goria and Yugoslav Premier Branko Mikulic were seen pictured together, smiling to readers from the front pages of Yugoslav, Italian, and some other newspapers.

The former had a relatively successful economic year behind him, and the latter the highest inflation in Europe and a tremendous debt. It could be concluded from this that Goria's position as a prime minister was relatively firm, and Mikulic's relatively weak. However, just some 10 days later, Goria submitted his resignation, and Mikulic, after his speech in the SFRY Assembly in which he explained to the public that economic failures are chiefly the fault of others and not of his government, somehow left on a trip to Canada just at the time when the Winter Olympics were opening in Calgary.

Why is the comparison between the fates of Goria and Mikulic interesting? It was sufficient for parliament to vote against the planned budget expenditure, and the Italian Prime Minister resigned. For 20 months, votes of no confidence in Mikulic have been passed by the economy (through rising prices and shortages), the SFRY Assembly (by the votes on the Anti-Inflation Program and the economic resolution), and the people (those working by distributing what they have not earned, and those not working through a pessimistic vision without a prospect), and yet he does not consider this to be sufficient reason for submitting a resignation.

Instead of admitting that the time has come to exit from the political scene, Branko Mikulic in his recent speech in the SFRY Assembly offered the following thesis in his defense: the FEC is impotent and, therefore, it is not to blame for the desperate economic situation in the country. In its term of office so far, the FEC has made the right moves, which have not yielded the expected results because they have been undermined by partial (egoistic) interests of the republics and provinces, by the insensitivity of an economy that has not accepted the "extended hand," and by the people who have not comprehended that the government wants to do what is good for them by pursuing a permanent policy of devaluing the dinar and who have immediately spent their decreasing earnings or changed their money into foreign currencies.

Politics as Fate [subhead]

Why are Mikulic and his FEC unable to reconcile themselves to the fact that the 20 months of their rule has brought the country into a situation that is even worse than in May 1986? You would be mistaken to seek an answer to this question primarily in the field of social psychology and the desire to retain privileges. The essence is not that Mikulic loves power more than Goria, because his predecessors (Milka Planinc, Veselin Djuranovic, Dzemal Bijedic, and others) behaved in a similar fashion, and his successors will probably behave likewise, unless the causes for such behavior are removed.

The cause lies in the system that does not recognize a crisis or know what a fall of government is. In our country, the president and members of the FEC are elected for 4 years and it is an unwritten rule that they should remain in office until the end (and some of them even remain for two terms). When their term of office ends, they go on building their political careers regardless of the results they have achieved. Thus, the members of the old FEC mostly take their places on the delegates' benches, often becoming the most fierce critics of the new government.

In electing a government (and others as well), what is essential is the republican-provincial "formula," the acceptance of paternalism by the elite group that is at that moment in power, and the readiness to fight for the interests of one's "national area." In practice this means that Yugoslav governments have no program with which to come to power and on the implementation of which their fate would depend. Were our annual FEC resolutions government programs, Branko Mikulic would have had to go at the end of 1986 (and certainly after the 1987 resolution), without much discussion, or much rancor, retaining the right to blame somebody else for his failures, but without the opportunity to continue in power.

Excuses, Excuses... [subhead]

However, since the only programs of the Yugoslav Government are how to stay in power until the end of the term without upheavals, one can understand the FEC's efforts (and this does not apply to the present FEC only) to find at any cost some compromise solutions that will momentarily satisfy all interests. If somebody blames them for the inefficiency of such a policy and for the unprecedented lack of responsibility for the future, they will offer an excuse such as that that Mikulic recently offered: egoistic interests of the republics and provinces are to be blamed for everything.

In a political system without democratic traditions and mechanisms, politics is transformed into the fate of individuals. One vacates an office only under duress. Resignations, caused by failure or by resistance to the implementation of specific blueprints, are very unlikely occurrences, just as the use of Article 360 of the SFRY Constitution that calls for a vote of confidence in the FEC is unlikely. In a system in which politics is equated with fate, it is improbable that an SFRY Assembly president or an FEC president, dissatisfied or pushed out, would open a law practice or a marketing service. When one leaves a certain office, one leaves forever and continues to live "only" in the body. This is the basic reason why governments in Yugoslavia cannot govern well, why they may make bad moves and still remain in office until the end of their term.

If premiers designate in the SFRY were elected on the basis of a publicly presented program, Branko Mikulic would have found it difficult to become an FEC president, and even more difficult to stay in this office for full 20 months. Why? Because Mikulic is an obvious proponent of "programmed" inflation (whose father in this part of the Balkans is Milutin Cirovic, professor at the Faculty of Economics in Belgrade). The real creators of this "philosophy" in Branko Mikulic's government are Lazar Drakul, vice governor of the National Bank of Yugoslavia, and Milan Sojic, director of the Price Institute.

"Programmed" inflation is incompatible with a real economy. Instead of the market providing the machinery for shifting income from the unsuccessful to successful enterprises, it offers administrative measures as the form of redistribution of income from the successful to unsuccessful enterprises. Examples are control of price formation, highly negative interest rates, finding federal funds to cover failed investments, and so forth.

It is an interesting discovery that Branko Mikulic used the words "shifting income" several times in his speech, and not without reason. The advocates of "programmed" inflation assert that real interest rates, free prices, and a real dinar rate of exchange result in shifting income from the underdeveloped to the developed regions of the country, and they try to prevent this through highly negative rates of interest, administrative corrections of price disparities and an unrealistic dinar exchange rate.

The FEC Does Not Believe in the Market [subhead]

The difference between the planned market orientation of the government and the administrative vision of socialism "of equal stomachs" is most noticeable here. In the former case, the market as the mover of the parliamentary competition [parlamentarne utakmice] performs the shifting of profits, which indeed are growing every day, from unsuccessful to successful enterprises. The state, however, through the plan and using the well-known machinery of economic measures, stimulates successful organizations to invest part of their profits in certain types of production (for instance of primary products) and in certain regions (for instance underdeveloped regions). In the latter case, the market is replaced by "accords and agreements." The national cake, which in this case is constantly diminishing, is being redistributed at the "baize table," [zeleni sto] while the unsuccessful organizations try to impose socialization of the losses in the name of common interests, and the successful organizations try to avoid it in the name of the same common interests. The republican and provincial administrations appear in the role of advocates and use national feelings as their key argument. At a time when the crisis shakes the country at all levels and when the gap between the developed and the underdeveloped regions is widening, national feelings can easily turn into nationalist and separatist feelings.

The explanation by Branko Mikulic's FEC that it advocates a real economy but that conditions should first be created for the working of the market is a product either of complete economic ignorance (which we doubt) or of the intention to actually prevent the working of the market through the "creation of conditions." One may say that it has by now become evident that the FEC does not believe the market. Present work on the preparation of the so-called Program of Price Liberalization may serve as confirmation of this thesis. The first text that emerged from the recognizable kitchen of "programmed" inflation offers a number of "economic" criteria that manufacturers must fulfill before they are able to set their prices freely. We do not doubt that under these circumstances, the knights of "the baize table" could easily come to the conclusion that the opportunities for setting prices on the basis of supply and demand are very small, had it not been for an IMF request according to which at least one third of the value of industrial production should be freed from state price control.

Knights of "the Baize Table" [subhead]

Why is rapid establishment of a market economy a key question of the further development of the country at this moment? Because it is the only way to take the sword of administration out of the hands of the federation, and at the same time to deprive the republican and provincial bureaucracies of their power. The partial interests of the republics and provinces (let us keep to this stereotype, although the spectrum of interests in society is much wider) may be harmonized either at a "baize table" or in the market.

The establishment of a planned market economy does not mean that all partial interests would be automatically neutralized in Yugoslavia and that we would become an example of a country without conflicts. If we accept the premise that contradictions and conflict in a way provide an incentive for development, we may say that one of our sociologists is right when he says that Yugoslavia does not need a multiparty system but several alternative programs. From the angle of the functioning of the FEC, this means that the government should be elected according to the program it offers. If the concept of Milutin Cirovic's "programmed" inflation shows to be unsuccessful, a government should be formed that would derive its economic policy from the ideas of Aleksander Bajt and his institute, or Marijan Korosic and his 10 points for getting out of the crisis. Perhaps even that government would not succeed, and a chance would be given to a third view, for instance the extreme market views (of Tihomir Nikolic or Dragoje Zarkovic).

Advancement on the Basis of Crisis [subhead]

What is essential in all this? That the SFRY, constituted in the way it is (on the principles of consensus and of the veto by republican and provincial bureaucracies) may advance only on the basis of a constant crisis of the federal government. Here one should remark that the solution at the moment would not lie in abolishing a consensus, because the contradictions between the developed and the underdeveloped regions are tremendous and real danger would exist that the present impotence in the functioning of the federation would be replaced by terrorism on the part of the majority of those who are unsuccessful, which would deepen political contradictions and national intolerance.

If the consensus is retained, the federation may function only on the basis of a government that will be constantly under scrutiny. Any manifestation of a lack of confidence in the government means a government crisis. In such a situation, the only, and also the strongest, weapon of the government would be to make its work completely public. If the government succeeds in convincing the people that its measures are in the interests of the SFRY, it could obtain support even in a situation when some republican and provincial bureaucracies reject the FEC program. Public opinion would exert pressure on the bureaucracy and enable the government to carry out its measures.

All this is not comprehended by the present FEC and its president. How else could one interpret Branko Mikulic's recent statement on Titograd Television that he does not like to appear too much in the public but prefers to mingle with workers in factories? A man who thinks in this way could have been Yugoslav premier in the fifties and the sixties, but not now when the Yugoslav federation faces serious trials.

Why is all the attention turned to the FEC and its work, and not to decisionmaking in the republics and provinces? Because the FEC is one of the rare integration factors in the Yugoslav community at present. Careful analysis of its measures means concern for the development of the entire country. Slovenia, with its national intelligentsia and a strong separatist trend, or Macedonia, with its bankrupt economy, cannot be integration factors in the Yugoslav sphere, but the FEC can. Therefore, those who criticize journalists and delegates for complaining about the FEC do not comprehend our reality and they are not capable of perceiving our future comprehensively.

The latest speech by Branko Mikulic in the SFRY Assembly convinced us that with such a government, Yugoslavia cannot get out of the present state of paralysis. Therefore, the way out is not in a government reshuffle, as announced by its president, but in the election of a new government that would offer a new economic policy, based on the planned market economy and the tenets of the 13th LCY Congress.

Economy 'Condemned' to Role of Outsider

AU221040 Belgrade Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 0900 GMT 21 Feb 88

[Nebojsa Petrovic commentary from the "Sunday at 10" program]

[Text] The direct determination of exports through the maintenance of a certain level of demand in the domestic market represents in itself an old idea in economic theory. But, if this is one of the views the Federal Economic Chamber expressed in its analysis of the current economic trends, then it is obvious that, pressed by enormous difficulties, the Yugoslav economy is returning to the basis of economic theory. As far as the FEC is concerned, the situation is different because it has not abandoned the policy of increasing exports at the expense of a fall in the purchasing power of the economy and the citizens, and reducing domestic demand. Both orientations have consequences. Here is Nebojsa Petrovic:

The non-existence of a link between these two views is used to explain among other things the bad results of business activities last year. Instead of a planned increase in industrial output of 3.5 percent, the production increased by only 0.6 percent in relation to the previous year. In the first half of the year, the achieved rate of growth was 2.6 percent thanks mainly to the stocks of imported raw materials, and high demand and consumption. Without support by these factors, the second half of the year ended with a discouraging 0.6 percent growth rate. What does it all mean?

A country that has been priding itself for a number of years on its Marxist orientation in politics and economy in practice succeeded in turning the basic laws of Marxist economy and economy in general upside down, and thanks to foreign loans lived for more than 3 decades in the belief that it was representing a world vanguard in revolutionizing economic systems. No world economic power has achieved that through some sociopolitical forum's decision, but through the sheer realization that at a certain moment its domestic market has become too tight for the expanded reproduction of both capital and production. The phrase about the specific case of Yugoslavia can also be used in this case, as it has been used on so many other occasions, in order to soften the sharpness of the truth that the Yugoslav economy with the present kind of export orientation is condemned to the role of a complete and eternal outsider.

Our exports do not rely on the domestic market, but represents a crude administrative redirection of goods across our borders with all the negative consequences that such a move entails. Of course, the pressure of foreign loans was unforeseeable. But, relying for decades on foreign money has in fact led to a foreign debt whose servicing is now being paid for by almost a half of the total social product.

The flag with a slogan "exports or nothing" was hoisted by Milka Planinc, but all that was achieved was that both the previous and the current FEC proved and demonstrated to everybody that exports relying on the domestic market is the only way to reduce the country's foreign debt. After all, this is best illustrated by figures.

Last year personal consumption fell by 2 percentage points, investments fell by about 5, the stocks of consumer goods rose by 9, while the stocks of the means of the production increased by almost 7. At the end of 1987 we had inflation of over 167 percent.

In order to make the best possible analysis of the situation in the economy, the Federal Economic Chamber carried out a questionnaire about the forecasts of 300 industrial work organizations. As regards the production, the questioned work organization stated that almost all could significantly increase the production at the rate about 10 percent. However, because of the present conditions for conducting business affairs and the lack of prospects for their quick change, the potential growth has been reduced to the real 3.4 percent, but only under the condition that businessmen's requests for possible changes in the economic system are taken into account. One of these is the already mentioned factor that refers to strengthening the purchasing power of the economy and citizens in order to maintain a certain level of demand in the domestic market as the basis for serious export businesses.

Assessments on export possibilities are even more interesting. On the basis of the production factors, the workers and capacities, Yugoslavia could exceed last year's exports by 18.5 percent, but because of the already mentioned constraints, the actual export percentage increase could be only 7.4 percent. For the sake of comparison, the development resolution for this year states that industrial output will grow at the rate of 2.5 percent and exports by 4.9 percent in relation to 1987. In the opinion of the interviewed businessmen, all this could be achieved with an inflation rate of 133 percent. This latest conclusion undermines another fundamental tenet of the FEC's economic policy because it demonstrates the unfeasibility of the orientation that restructuring the economy and increasing production can be put in the same basket with the measures for reducing inflation. After all, a few months ago the experts of the World Bank for Reconstruction and Development came to the conclusion that Yugoslavia's number one problem is not inflation but the inability of the Yugoslav economy to adopt the current economic trends.

After all is said, the FEC and the domestic economy have two possibilities. Either that the economic policy will develop from the economy, or that its possibilities and needs will continue to be crippled by administrative moves and the hyper-production of illogical and damaging regulations.

'Loopholes in Law' Allow Prices To Rise

AU202005 Belgrade BORBA in Serbo-Croatian 16 Feb 88 p 1

[TANJUG report: "Prices Melt Ice"]

[Text] Belgrade, 15 Feb—Market inspectors cannot stop the flood of "gray prices" by themselves. Work organizations are increasingly taking advantage of "loopholes in the law" and managing to find formal legal justifications for price increases, and thus daily violate the spirit and basic tenets of the FEC's decisions on prices. This was stated by Pavel Dolenc, chief federal market inspector.

In his opinion, this situation is, to a certain extent, being "promoted" by the imprecise and inconsistent nature of the FEC's decisions.

Dolenc continued: "There is a large number of work organizations that have had signed agreements on prices for years. These agreements are simply 'activated' when they are necessary and, as a rule, when there is any administrative intervention in the field of prices."

"The market has been flooded with 'new products,' and in this respect the decisions on prices are inadequate," says Dolenc. For example, it is stated that the price of a new product must be the same as the price of a similar product sold on the market. However, the phrase "similar product" is imprecise, so it happens that a furniture manufacturer, for example, puts a new piece onto a chest of drawers and "sticks" on the price of another manufacturer whose "similar" chest of drawers is the most expensive. Comparisons with imported goods are also allowed.

Dolenc points out that, taken as a whole, market inspectors have literally been exhausted by trying to prove violations that are often obvious. Every "new product," self-managing agreement, or some other similar attempt by the market to get higher prices must be "processed" individually.

Dolenc added: "The Federal Market Inspectorate is aware that there are many mistakes made in the job of inspecting. However, it would be wrong to put all the blame for the nonobservance of the regulations onto the inspection service."

Further on Condemnation of MLADINA Articles

Reserve Officers Reject Attacks

LD192155 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1315 GMT 19 Feb 88

[Text] Novi Sad, 19 Feb (TANJUG)—From their meeting in Novi Sad today, the provincial conference of the Federation of Reserve Officers of Vojvodina sent a telegram to the SFRY Presidency enforcing the evaluations made in connection with the attacks in individual information media on the Yugoslav People's Army [JNA] and the achievements of the revolution.

The Vojvodina reserve officers most vehemently denounce the writing of 'MLADINA' magazine and of other public information media, which in some of their articles question the place and the role of the JNA in our political system.

Belgrade Radio Comment

*AU211955 Belgrade Domestic Service
in Serbo-Croatian 0900 GMT 21 Feb 88*

[Mijusko Tomic commentary from the "Sunday at 10" program]

[Text] Increasingly frequent attacks on the concept of the All People's Defense and the Yugoslav People's Army [YPA] in particular, especially recent attacks by MLADINA and NOVA REVIJA, are aimed against the constitutionally established system of defense and the revolutionary achievements of our peoples and nationalities. This is how the SFRY Presidency and some other political organs and top officials assessed the emergence of such unacceptable treatment of this topic. Last week this topic was discussed on several occasions. Here is Mijusko Tomic:

In their attacks on the YPA and the concept of the All People's Defense, MLADINA and NOVA REVIJA, and this is not the first time, do not only wish but are also trying to compromise the army as the joint force of all peoples and nationalities and separate it from the people and in this way weaken our defense system. Let us recall, MLADINA's discussion on defense first started with articles on the equality of languages and alphabets in the YPA. In the 1970's, republican armies were also favored in the name of equality. Later this thesis appeared in the new attire of the civilian military service.

In addition to MLADINA, the most vociferous advocate of a different defense system than Yugoslav socialist society opted for, is the magazine NOVA REVIJA.

Its view on our defense was presented in the so-called contributions to the Slovene National Program. This view almost negates our revolution, the all people's liberation struggle, and the role of the Communist Party of Yugoslavia in that revolution. NOVA REVIJA advocates a multiparty system as the only way out of the crisis. It claims that the present political system is totalitarian, that it confronts Slovens and Serbs, provides full support to Albanians inspired by nationalism and separatism, promotes the right to self-determination until the secession of Slovenia, and demands that this question remains continually open.

The anti-Yugoslav direction of NOVA REVIJA has not stopped with attacks on the YPA, but extends much further, to the destruction of all the foundations of our country.

Very few people, including those in Slovenia, will accept the messages of NOVA REVIJA and MLADINA. Nobody in this country attaches a greater role to our armed forces than that prescribed by the Constitution, that is to protect the inviolability of our borders and the free democratic self-managing development. This is why the tenet on the socialization [podrustveljavanje] of the all people's defense is being realized like nowhere else in the world. This concept that represents an expression of the will of the people is in fact a consistent realization of Marxist vision of the defense of people armed not to subordinate others, but to protect its freedom and independence. Strengthening the combat readiness of our Army and its resoluteness not to technologically fall behind other modern armies has therefore only this as its aim. In the present conditions of developments in technology and the application of the most modern scientific and technological achievements, which big powers are already directing as if they were stars, lagging behind in modernizing our army would mean a direct weakening in our own defense capability. This explains the idea behind our supersonic plane. Of course, this and some other issues can be discussed within the framework of socialism. But one should bear in mind that no discussion should make our Army the only army in the world without military secrets. This would be extremely naive and dangerous.

Reaction to attacks aimed at the YPA and which insult its officers, including the federal secretary for national defense himself, started immediately after the publication of unacceptable articles.

The reaction came first from the Yugoslav media and then from top political forums and officials. In the first reactions the Presidium of the Republican Conference of the Slovene SAWP and the Program Council of MLADINA condemned insults to some individuals. But during discussions held in these bodies, particularly in MLADINA, there was certain confusion of issues because more emphases was placed on comments regarding the new aircraft rather then putting more efforts to more resolutely oppose attacks on the YPA as a whole.

The views of Bogdan Tanaskovic, president of the Federal Defense Committee, and the SFRY Presidency were completely clear. Lately there have been crude attacks on our Army, the Armed Forces as a whole, and the defense capability of the country. This phenomena represent a constituent part of intensified attacks on the achievements of our revolution and the constitutionally established sociopolitical system. This is why articles of this kind are in direct contradiction with the Constitution and the law. The Presidency pointed to the urgent need for all state organs and other social factors, above all those in the environments in which these attacks are taking place, as well as in the country as a whole, to act and undertake certain measures within their jurisdiction. It has become clear that under the slogan of socialization and democratization one cannot tolerate the tendencies which directly threaten the achieved degree of socialization and democracy. Similarly, it should also be clear that many other people should have felt obliged to react to such phenomena before the SFRY Presidency.

Law Planned To Deal With Citizens' Complaints

*LD200036 Belgrade TANJUG in English
1826 GMT 19 Feb 88*

[Text] Belgrade, Feb 19 (TANJUG)—Yugoslavia is preparing a new law under which federal bodies, primarily the Federal Parliament, will be authorized to deal with citizens' complaints which are now in the jurisdiction of local authorities.

The initiative was prompted by increased incidence of arrivals of groups of citizens from all around the country to the Federal Assembly "in quest for justice."

The first such mass arrival took place last spring when a group of Serbs and Montenegrins from Kosovo, autonomous province within the Republic of Serbia, came to Belgrade to draw attention to pressures by which members of the majority ethnic Albanians are forcing them to migrate from the province.

Others followed suit (over the past month and a half, there were seven such groups). The complaints ranged from protests over transferring an elementary school from one place to another and dissatisfaction over the local water supply system route, to arrogance of local authorities.

The visits to Belgrade by dissatisfied citizens are an expression of trust in top self-management organs, but also an alarm warning of a serious disorder in the functioning of local state bodies.

This thesis is further substantiated by the fact that all visits by citizens to the Federal Parliament were made without the knowledge of local authorities.

The chief problem is that the Assembly of Yugoslavia, the country's highest legislative body, is not authorised to deal with citizens' complaints because, under the law, they should be settled where they occurred. The Assembly therefore could only return the complaints to local bodies with a recommendation that they be solved as soon as possible. It even has no right to request a report on what has been done in this connection.

The new legislation is expected to force the local bodies to settle such problems conscientiously and promptly, which will certainly reduce the number of dissatisfied citizens coming to Belgrade.

Montenegrin Assembly Approves Amendments

LD192151 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1241 GMT 19 Feb 88

[Excerpt] Titograd, 19 Feb (TANJUG)—At their session today the delegates of all the three chambers of the Montenegrin Assembly approved the drafts of the 30 amendments to this republic's constitution. The conviction was expressed during the discussion that the proposed changes of the republican constitution open up broader prospects for the development of self-management and direct socialist democracy, encourage the development of material production forces, aid the more efficient functioning of the socioeconomic and political system and of essential conditions to overcome the crisis, and the clearly prominent disintegration processes and disunity on many important issues in our country. [passage omitted]

Pristina LC To Reexamine Expulsion Decision

LD201003 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1625 GMT 19 Feb 88

[Excerpts] Pristina, 19 Feb (TANJUG)—The Decision to expel from the LCY Bosko Budimirovic, one of the three Kosovo Polje people described by the Municipal Committee of the LC of Pristina as self-styled leaders who had "abused the justified dissatisfaction" of the Serb and Montenegrin population during the well-known protest rallies, will soon be reexamined. [passage omitted]

The statement by the municipal Committee of the LC of Pristina issued today says that Bosko Budimirovic complained to the Statute Commission about this decision, and the Commission, the statement stressed, "will soon examine the complaint" and adopt an appropriate decision on the basis of facts and in keeping with the statute. [passage omitted]

Vlasi Explains Militia Detachment Statement

AU202033 Belgrade Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1800 GMT 20 Feb 88

[Text] Azem Vlasi, president of the Presidency of the Provincial Committee of the LC of Kosovo, has stated that, at a forum in Split in the middle of last week, he expressed an opinion about sending a militia detachment to Kosovo. His statement was interpreted in various ways in press reports. Therefore, he issued an explanation pointing out, among other things, that the SFRY Presidency adopted the decision to send a militia detachment to Kosovo in October as a precautionary security measure. Fortunately, it has been shown since then that there was no need for the unit to take action or, rather, to act on the basis of this decision, Vlasi stresses. It may be seen in many press reports that this is the essence of my answer to one of the questions in the discussion, but to eliminate possible misunderstandings and various interpretations, I feel the need to also explain the matter in this way, Azem Vlasi added.